

THE
SATURDAY REVIEW
OF
POLITICS, LITERATURE, SCIENCE, ART, AND FINANCE.

No. 3268 Vol. 125.

15 June, 1918.

[REGISTERED AS A
NEWSPAPER.]

6d.

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"PUNISHMENT and vengeance alone remain, and God forbid that they should ever be forgotten. But the punishment of enormous offenders will not be the less severe or the less exemplary, when it is not threatened at a moment when we have it not in our power to execute our threats."

BURKE.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Germans are at present attacking with great persistency. While shelling the British front with vigour, and still attacking at Chateau-Thierry, they began on Sunday last another offensive on a front of twenty-two miles between Montdidier and Noyon, which, if prosecuted with any marked success, might make a very awkward salient on the left of our line in the last offensive. On this occasion, however, there was nothing like a surprise. The line of attack had been anticipated, and the French artillery made effective replies at once. During the first two days the Germans were held up on the wings, and advanced in the centre, as in previous assaults on a big scale. But the ground gained was small in comparison with that won round St. Quentin and on the Aisne, and all accounts agree the German losses are exceptionally heavy. It is significant that the Crown Prince has already used four divisions from Prince Rupprecht's reserve.

By Monday the Germans had advanced in the centre to Reims-sur-Matz and Marenikes. By Tuesday they had reached from the left of the centre to the right, Méry, Belloy, St. Maur, Marquégise and Elincourt. On the left Courcelles, only two miles from the original line, has been taken and retaken several times, a fact which points to the desperation and tenacity of the combatants on each side. Later, Courcelles and Méry, south of it, were still in our hands, and on Tuesday a strong counterblow improved the French positions. On the same day the Germans advanced as far as the Aronde, eight miles from their original line, but a fine counter-attack regained a good deal of this ground. On the right, however, the enemy has made a substantial advance

between Preslincourt and Ribecourt, which puts them in possession of the hilly country south-west of Noyon. This is the main German thrust on the way to Compiègne.

On Monday night on the front between Morlancourt and Sailly-le-Sec beyond Amiens the Australians brought off another of those effective raids by which we are daily reducing the enemy's strength and moral. An advance was made in the small hours of the morning which won half a mile of ground on a front of over a mile and a half, and 298 prisoners and 21 machine-guns were secured.

There is a decided touch of humour about the latest exhibition of German blackguardism. The German Government agreed to meet Sir George Cave, Lord Newton, and General Belfield at the Hague in order to discuss an exchange of prisoners "and other matters." They knew that the Home Secretary is an important member of the Government, one of whose functions is to deal with prisoners. Of Lord Newton's caustic commonsense, and inability to be humbugged, they had already had experience. The discussion on prisoners was therefore likely to be a little unpleasant, certainly difficult, for the German Government. What more simple way out of an engagement which they already regretted than to blow up Sir George Cave and Lord Newton on their way to the Hague? It was given out that they would travel on the "Königin Regentes," which was blown up, by accident, on purpose. We should like to witness the Conference between the Englishmen who were not blown up and the Germans who will be.

One of the most discouraging signs of the times is that no exposure of official incompetence brings with it any punishment, but, on the contrary, reward or promotion. The negligence and impotence of the Indian Government as revealed in the Mesopotamia Report brought no consequences to the Viceroy, Lord Hardinge; and Surgeon-General Sir William Babbie, the officer directly responsible for the deficiencies of the medical provision in Mesopotamia, was at once given an important appointment in the West of England. We now learn that Sir William Babbie has been appointed Medical Adviser to the Adjutant-General, who is responsible for the direction of the whole Army Medical Service. The condition of many of the Military Hospitals is very far from what it should be, and requires immediate supervision. The Secretary of State for War entrusts this task to one who has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. This is "the career open" to failures.

What are the Secretaries for State for India and the Colonies going to do about the shortage of rupees in Ceylon? Presumably, these Ministers do not wish to bring about a tea and rubber famine: but that is what will happen, if they do not take some steps to enable the tea companies to finance their estates. That the companies must lose money on the exchange of sterling into rupees is obvious from the fact that the rupee having risen to 1/6d. or 1/7d. you get so many fewer rupees for the pound sterling. This loss is an unavoid-

able consequence of the war. But what is worse is that the Eastern Banks are now refusing to exchange sterling bills for rupees at any price, which must ruin many of the plantations, as they cannot pay their coolies. The Banks say that there are not enough rupees to buy these London Bills, and they can therefore neither buy paper in Colombo, nor telegraph credits from London. At whatever cost, the Indian Mint must coin rupees, or there will be a tea famine.

Will the nation never open its eyes to the fact that Mr. Winston Churchill at £5,000 a year is a very costly luxury? As First Lord of the Admiralty he let us in for the catastrophe of the Dardanelles and the fiasco of the Antwerp relief raid, both of them "gambles" that went the wrong way. The report of the Dardanelles Commission (or as much of it as we have been allowed to see) was so damning that Mr. Churchill was forced out of the Admiralty into the Chancellorship of the Duchy, which he resigned in a pet. By playing on the fears, or appealing to the compassion, of Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Churchill contrived, in the teeth of the angry protests of the whole Conservative party, to push Dr. Addison out of the Ministry of Munitions and occupy his place.

Dr. Addison was feeble and incompetent enough, as everybody knows, and jobbery and corruption flourished under his nose. But Mr. Churchill is worse, because less scrupulous and timorous. The Ministry of Munitions is a big public scandal, neither more nor less. Mr. Churchill at once began by raising wages, and with his 12½ per cent. bonus did more to increase the cost of living to the poor and to demoralise industry than the most blatant trades-union agitator. Hardly a day passes but some huge loss to the public is brought to light by the frenzied finance of the department over which Mr. Churchill presides. First of all £3,000,000, then £4,000,000 are discovered to have been lost or wasted by sheer laziness or laxity or dishonesty on the part of those whose business it is to keep the accounts of the Munitions Department. What does Mr. Churchill care? Lord Randolph Churchill sacrificed his office, his health, his happiness, in the heroic endeavour to secure public economy. His son is content to make telling speeches from the box, while his clerks are squandering millions.

Few dignitaries of the Church have had so varied an experience of life as Dr. J. E. C. Welldon, who has been appointed to the Deanery of Durham. As head master of Harrow, as bishop of Calcutta, and as Dean of Manchester, Dr. Welldon has seen "cities of men and manners," and has therefore acquired a broader and more sympathetic outlook on life than the Greek play ecclesiastics of old days. His enemies accuse Dr. Welldon of "pushing" and "advertising," which is merely an envious way of saying that he is a man of vigour and variety, who knows that Queen Victoria is dead, and recognizes the unpleasant but indisputable fact that the twentieth is not the nineteenth century. It is a judicious appointment. The Dean of Durham receives £3,000 a year.

The seriousness of the coal situation cannot be exaggerated, and it is all the worse because it is sedulously concealed. The Government propose to withdraw 100,000 men from coal-getting, which means a diminution of ten million tons in the coal supply. Already 75,000 colliers have been withdrawn, or are under notice, and presumably the other 25,000 will follow. This deficiency must be made up, or there will be a catastrophe, not only in domestic supplies, but in the munition and steel works of the Allies. The only way to make up the deficiency is to compel the miners who are left, to work. In some of the Yorkshire collieries there is a steady daily absenteeism of 30 to 35 per cent., and only three days a week work put in. As all other men under 35 are now at the disposal of Government, why should not the colliers be treated as soldiers?

The Coal-Controller, Sir Guy Calthrop, has adopted a new scheme of coal-rationing for domestic consumption, by which everybody is to be cut down by a quarter, but the supply may be divided between gas, coal, and electric light or heating, a most elaborate calculation which will puzzle the ordinary household to distraction. But is this coal-rationing to be universal and uniformly applied to all districts? We ask because it appears that the rations of coal did not apply to the Egham district, where Baron Schroeder lives. While the inhabitants of London, and the large towns, were shutting up half their rooms, and counting every ton with their coal merchant, it is stated that Baron Schroeder (naturalised in August, 1914) had some 500 tons of coal delivered to him and buried in the ground, partly in order to keep his orchid-houses going. It is precisely incidents of this kind that produce revolutions. The impudence of the transaction is the more amazing because the Baron's Royal neighbours submit as we happen to know, to the strictest coal rations. Who was the coal merchant who delivered the coal to the Baron?

The statesman who sits in judgment on the debates of the House of Commons from the *Times* box in the gallery is of opinion that criticism of the financial provisions of the Emigration Bill is "sniping." As Mr. Joynson-Hicks points out, in a sensible letter to the *Times*, "to suggest that every attempt to improve a 'ginger' a department is an expression of want of confidence in the Prime Minister is not merely ridiculous, but is a deliberate attempt on the part of the Governmental machine to protect the wrong-doer, to prolong the war, and seriously to injure the Commonwealth." If all criticism of the Government is to be condemned as sniping, it would be better to shut up the House of Commons altogether during the war. But then the gallery statesman's constitutional theory would be proved at the expense of his livelihood.

Sir Ellis Hume-Williams, K.C., M.P., has written to us complaining of the injustice of our comments last week on his conduct of the prosecution in the Billing case. He says that the article in the 'Imperialist,' alluding to the German Black Book and the Forty-Seven Thousand, was set out in the indictment, which he was bound to read, and for which he was not responsible. We are sorry to be obliged to contradict Sir Ellis Hume-Williams; but an authentic copy of the indictment is before us, and it contains no mention of the "Imperialist" article, or the German Black Book, but only of the Forty Seven Thousand. Sir Ellis chose to read extracts from the "Imperialist" and to open the Black Book in order to explain the libel, and by doing so he made it a part of his case, which is exactly the blunder we charged him with.

It has been said that if the judge had come to the conclusion that the part of the libel which alleged that Miss Allan's performances would be attractive to those addicted to certain practices, did not reflect upon her, he should have ruled at the end of the case for the prosecution. It might have been better if Mr. Justice Darling had ruled that the Black Book was irrelevant at the close of the case for the prosecution. That would not have prevented Mr. Billing's questions to Miss Allan; but it would have prevented him from calling the witnesses he did. It is unusual for a judge to rule that evidence is immaterial after it has been given, instead of when it is tendered. Certainly we did not mean, and do not wish, to be unjust to Sir Ellis Hume-Williams. But a leader at the bar, engaged in a case of public interest, must put up with criticism.

Lord Londonderry's motion to call attention to the state of Ireland has been postponed until next Tuesday when there will be an interesting debate in the House of Lords. It is, indeed, time that the country learned the Irish policy of the Government, if they have not

With regard to Lord French's extraordinary proclamation, Mr. Samuels, the Irish Attorney-General, informed the House of Commons that the Land Purchase Act would be so amended that every Irish soldier should get a gift of land. That is exactly what we said would happen. English, Scotch, and Welsh taxpayers are to find the money to bribe Irishmen to fight for their King and country. By the charms of bands, posters, "kilties" marching, and all the vulgar tricks of the travelling circus, Irish patriots are to be "enticed to the colours," as the *Daily Express* puts it. Is not the practice of treating Irishmen like spoilt children a trifle wearisome?

The mother-wit of Lord Willoughby de Broke fails to understand why, when everybody this side of the Irish Channel is living in a state of war tension, junketings should go on in Ireland, such as horse-racing, coursing, cock-fighting, unrestrained eating, drinking, and travelling. Lord Crawford, who answered for the Government, skated over very thin ice with skill and speed. It is satisfactory to know that within the last week railway fares in Ireland have been raised: but Lord Crawford is much too clever not to be conscious of the fallacy of his argument from average consumption. With the exception of sugar, food rationing in Ireland is not necessary, said the Lord Privy Seal, because the average consumption of commodities per head is lower than in England. What this means is that the poor, who are numerous, consume as little as usual or less, while the well-to-do, the politicians, priests, journalists, and farmers, eat and drink as much as they can get. It was precisely to prevent that state of things that rationing was ordained in England.

Mr. Fisher and the Government still retain some shreds of sanity in dealing with the Education Bill, for they successfully opposed Mr. Snowden's Amendment that the maintenance of children at Continuation Schools should be paid for by the State. The modern doctrine appears to be that the parents of the working-classes are to make no sacrifices, and to pay nothing for an education which will practically be the same as that for which the professional and upper classes pay between £200 and £300 a year. Mr. Snowden calmly complained that his proposal would cost "only £7,000,000 a year"! Nothing but the huge financial collapse for which these maniacs are heading will bring them to their senses. Will anybody explain, "in a few short words," why the impoverished upper and middle classes should pay for the education, not only of their own children, but of those of the working-classes?

Before this war there was no such thing as an Egyptian subject. The fellaheen and native farmers in both the Delta and Upper Egypt were subjects of the Sultan. The white families in Egypt, even those who had lived there for three and four generations, were all subjects of one of the European Powers or of the United States, and their law was that of the mixed tribunals under the Capitulations. Thus, a man's family might have lived for fifty or a hundred years at Cairo or Alexandria, and yet be legally Austrian, or Italian, or English, or French subjects. Most of these hybrid citizens are Jews, and what their legal country is now we do not know. Goldstein Bey, the Assistant Postmaster-General at Cairo, is one of these anomalies. Born in Egypt he was at law an Austrian: after the war broke out he became registered as a Russian: what is he now? We may be sure the British Authorities at Cairo satisfied themselves of his loyalty before they allowed him to remain at the Post Office. Nevertheless, Mr. Joynson-Hicks was quite right to raise the question.

It is not possible to criticise Mr. Asquith's Romanes Lecture at Oxford from the skimble-skamble stuff published in the *Times* by way of a report. We are glad to observe, however, that Mr. Asquith gives "a hand"

to Mr. Lytton Strachey's Essays on Eminent Victorians, which we review on another page. The notes of the Victorian Age are, on the moral and intellectual side, reserve, deference, balance; and on the material side, the steady accumulation of wealth under the system of Free Trade. The war has destroyed reserve, deference, and balance; has dispersed the accumulated wealth, and blown into atoms the theory of free exchange, which can only work in times of world-peace. Letters and art and manners require a leisured class for their cultivation, and during the present century everybody will be pre-occupied with the struggle to live. Not for a hundred years shall we see the galaxy of orators, historians, poets, and novelists that graced the Victorian Age.

Mr. Lloyd George, when Minister of Munitions in 1915, ordered 5,000 Madsen guns to be made, and a factory for their production was actually erected and equipped. But the guns were never made, it being decided that aero-engines were more important; and so the factory intended for Madsen guns was turned into one for the manufacture of Rolls-Royce engines. That is very characteristic; as is the fact that from that day to this nothing has been done about the Madsen gun. Why not? There was a unanimity of opinion in the debate in the House of Lords on 6th June last as to the superiority of the Madsen gun (a Danish invention) over the Lewis and Hotchkiss guns now in use. The Madsen machine gun or rifle weighs 15 lbs. as compared with 28½ lbs. for the Lewis machine gun and 28 lbs. for the Hotchkiss. And it has this great advantage, pointed out by Lord Penrhyn, that in 15 seconds the heated barrel is replaced by the cool spare barrel.

For twenty minutes the Lewis machine-rifle is out of action owing to the heated barrel, and the Germans, being of course, aware of this, time their rushes accordingly. We are told that "the military authorities" have "turned down" the Madsen gun; but we want to know exactly who, or what Military authority, is responsible for the turning down. Is it General Furze, the Master-General of the Ordnance? Or was it General von Donop before he was removed by Mr. Lloyd George? Is it the War Council, or the Secretary of State, or the Chief of the Staff, or the Commander-in-Chief? Or is it some nameless "expert" adviser? Or is it Messrs. Vickers, who oppose the adoption of a new gun? The difficulty in these days is to find out who is responsible for anything. Have any of these "Military authorities" seen and tested the gun itself, or have they only inspected a model? Lord Beresford, who made a masterly speech, full of facts, asked that the Military authorities should seriously test the Danish gun, and secure it before the Germans get it. Lord Crawford has promised that the tests shall be made.

The remarks of the Registrar-General Sir Bernard Mallet, on the birth-rate are certainly most disquieting. In 1913 the births registered in England and Wales were 881,890: in 1917 they fell to 668,346, a decline of 24 per cent. There has been, up to the present, a loss on the standard of 1913, of 650,000 potential lives. Every day that the war continues, says Sir Bernard Mallet, costs all the belligerents 7,000 potential lives. "Race suicide among European peoples on the most colossal scale has been the outstanding result of German militarism," is the summing-up of the situation. In addition to the deaths and absence of men, insufficient food is contributing to lower birth rate, in countries both in and out of the fighting zone. It may be some grim consolation to those under the yoke of Lord Rhonda to know that in Petrograd rats are selling at two roubles apiece. This, however, is one side of the shield: our correspondent, Mr. C. F. Ryder, in a letter appearing in this issue, ascribes the war to "the incorrigible fecundity of German women," as contrasted with the continence of the French.

STRONG GOVERNMENT OR NATIONALITY?

"WILL the centripetal force of economics finally overcome the centrifugal force of Nationality in the present Hapsburg Empire? The programme of Pangermanism stands or falls by the answer to this question." We quote this sentence from Mr. Arnold Toynbee's 'Nationality and the War' (p. 114) published in 1915, because it really contains the kernel of the matter. The Germans are proclaiming with a blare of trumpets to the world their renewed alliance with Austria, which is to make the world safe for Germany. That depends, as the French say. Will the Austro-Hungarian Empire break up as a result of this war, or will it be more firmly consolidated than ever? Or, to put it a little differently, will Strong Government or Nationality triumph? Obviously, if the Hapsburg Empire breaks up, the German boast is hot air, and the great "bloc" is a myth. How has it fared between the two principles up to date? We are nearing the end of the fourth year of the war, and Nationality, as represented by Serbia, Russia, and Roumania, has collapsed, while Strong Government has won. Consider the Austro-Hungarian Empire, how it has held together through four years of tremendous struggle, when its very existence is a standing miracle. It is the negation of Nationality, for there are no less than eight nationalities in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, namely, Magyars, Tchechs, Germans, Italians, Roumans, Poles, Ruthenes, and Southern Slavs. The two first, the Magyars and the Tchechs, totally unlike one another (for the Tchechs are Slavs, while the Magyars are said to be a mixture of Finns and Turks), are both complete nationalities; and the other six are fragments of contiguous nationalities. For the last fifty years the Hapsburg Empire has been going to break up; it is indeed a curious mosaic, but not fragile. What keeps it together? How do the Austrian authorities keep armies in the field composed of races who hate one another, and the Germans above all? The answer is that the Austrian Empire is held together by the centralizing force of commercial interest. The half of the Empire lying west of Vienna is industrial: the other half, lying east of Vienna, is agricultural, and inhabited by Magyars and Slavs. These two halves have seen that their economic interest lay in exchanging their products, and that for the protection of this exchange the one thing needful was a strong, central Government. Against this breakwater of economic advantage the waves of Tchechism, Polandism, Magyarism, and Slavism, have dashed in vain. The celebrated Ausgleich or Compromise between Austria and Hungary is founded on this community of commercial interest, and has little or nothing to do with race. It is true that this Compromise was not made by the peoples, but by the two governing minorities, for in Austria the Germans are only about a third of the population (the other two-thirds being composed of Slavs and Italians); while in Hungary the Magyars and the Slavs are almost equally divided. But the Compromise has held all these years, and will hold, unless it is broken up by the disintegrating force of Nationality, in other words, by the Slavs. Bismarck had the greatest contempt for the Slavs, whom he described as a feminine race, the Celts of Europe. It must be admitted that the Slavs have not shown to advantage in this war as compared with the Teuton and the Turk. Russia was always regarded as the champion and the head of the Slavonic races: and the Russians are not only discredited, but branded with infamy. The key of the position is in the hands of the Magyars of Hungary. Will they throw in their lot with the German-Austrians and the cause of Strong Government? Or will they place themselves at the head of their Slav fellow-subjects, and form a new Slav Confederacy hostile to Germany? Here again, pecuniary and class interests come into play. The Magyars are the land-owning aristocracy, who naturally distrust and hate the Slav democracy. They despise the Austrians, and detest the Germans, but they want to keep their estates and sell their produce to the industrial districts west of Vienna. It is the old conflict

between cash and sentiment, between liberty and ledgers. Hitherto cash-payment has proved stronger than race-consciousness. Cash is a consolidating, race a dissolvent force.

Much will depend on the termination of the war. The Entente Powers have put their money on Nationality versus Strong Government. The reason why England is always accused of hypocrisy by her enemies is that English statesmen, while preaching Nationality to the old monarchies of Europe, have refused to break up the Kingdom of Britain on those lines. Nothing exasperated the European Powers so much as the homilies of Palmerston and Russell about liberty for oppressed races, when in domestic politics they were aristocratic Tories. But England has ceased to dominate the situation. Battles will be decided by guns and fighting men: the terms of peace lie in the hands of two men: President Wilson and the German Emperor. For these reasons we have always regarded the money spent on Propaganda as wasted. How much President Wilson will give up of his ideals about Nationalities and how much the Kaiser will surrender of Strong Government depend on events which no one can foresee. Two facts only stand out: the Germans are creeping nearer to Paris; and the Americans have despatched 700,000 troops to Europe.

THE WAGES QUESTION IN THE PORT OF LONDON.

ONE of the most familiar examples of national waste in times of peace is to be found in the burking of disagreeable subjects by a reference to Royal Commissions or Select Committees of Parliament. Huge expenses are incurred in the payment of expert witnesses and counsel, and in the preparation of plans and documents. Much valuable time of Lords and Commons is occupied in questioning, listening and considering. At the end of a long period of cogitation, the conclusions of the body deputed to deal with the matter at issue are gathered together in a report to Parliament. Meanwhile the original protagonists of the ideas discussed have got tired, or the ideas have got out of date, or the contingencies of politics have shifted the public interest to another "stunt," and the report remains a report. While the affairs of State are proceeding normally, no particular harm is felt or done. A prosperous community may just as well spend money on investigating ideas as on any form of luxury, and there is always the possibility that some new mine of wealth or social advantage may be discovered in the course of the proceedings. But in time of war, and especially in the present war, where the stress is so exacting that the future of the Empire is at stake, the Government cannot afford to waste effort and money by a jaunty reference of unpleasant questions to select Committees. Still less can it afford to appoint a Committee to deal with vital questions affecting the national credit, and then utterly to ignore the urgent recommendations of that Committee.

The most important question dealt with by the National Expenditure Committee was the continuous claims of the working classes for advances of wages during war time. The Committee point out that in numerous cases increases of wages have been secured apart from any question of cost of living through advantage being taken of the shortage of supply in relation to demand, and that however legitimate this may be in time of peace, it should be remembered that in existing circumstances it is a direct cause of further rises in prices and of further increases in national expenditure. The Committee remark that whilst capitalists at the beginning of the war, undoubtedly, also utilised the economic situation, the excess profits duty recovers for the State by far the greater part of such profits—in most cases 80 per cent and often as much as 90 per cent. On the other hand fresh cycles of wage advances follow one another each one resulting in further increases of prices of

preventing a reduction of prices. By this, the producers are not only raising prices against themselves as consumers, but are vastly increasing the cost of the war. The Committee say they are deeply impressed by the seriousness of the position in this respect, and are convinced that if the process continues, the result cannot fail to be disastrous to all classes of the nation. The report of the Committee includes recommendations that the measures for limitation of profits should be continued and strengthened—that an inquiry should be set on foot to ascertain what has been the actual increase in the cost of living to the working classes, and how far it has been counterbalanced by advantages apart from wage advances, due to war conditions—and that the strongest case should be required to be established before any advance of wages is conceded on any ground other than the rise in the cost of living.

How has the Government treated this report? Some months after it was issued, a Committee to inquire into the cost of living was appointed, but it has not yet reported. The Government also acted on the suggestion to tap profits still further by the recent heavy Budget increases of income-tax and super-tax. But what of the claims for higher wages? The answer to this question is that the recommendation has been absolutely flouted. Every week since the report was issued has brought some demand from various grades of workers, followed by arbitrations before the Committee on Production, and awards monotonously similar in terms, giving the applicants several shillings a week rise and accompanied by an invitation to come again in four months' time. As we write, the miners are acting on the encouraging invitation, and the carmen also, whilst the railwaymen have just had another war bonus, and are doubtless looking for a further instalment in September.

One of the worst of the recent cases under this system has been that of the London Dockers. It began with an application from the National Transport Workers' Federation made to all Port employers for an all-round war advance of 8d. an hour on pre-war wages to dock workers throughout the kingdom. The officials of the Federation were perfectly well aware that such a standardised war bonus at an hourly rate was not acceptable to the workers themselves. They were also aware that no case could be made out on the ground of increased cost of living since the last bonus was granted. The question of standardisation was therefore merely a pretext to get a hearing before the Committee on Production. The Federation appealed successfully to the Ministry of Labour to bring pressure to bear upon the employers to consent to arbitration, and the employers in the outports succumbed, with the inevitable result of an award against them of 2d. an hour on existing bonuses. The award did not accord the standardised war bonus ostensibly sought, but it served. The Port of London Authority and the other transport employers in London declined to attend the proceedings. The Government thereupon issued a proclamation under the Munitions Act bringing the Port of London within the scope of compulsory arbitration, and in order to comply with the formula prescribed by the Act declared that area as one where a cessation of work was apprehended. The Authority and the other London employers still declined to attend any arbitration, and Lord Devonport has explained the reasons that governed this decision in a letter which was published at the time. He pointed out that there was not the slightest indication of trouble in London. The men had made no application to the Authority, nor had the two Labour representatives on the Authority brought forward any grievances as to wages. The standardisation of war bonuses had been consistently refused by the men on the ground that a flat rate was unfair to those who did not secure regular employment, and to strain the law to compel parties to arbitrate upon this question where there had never been conflict was, in the opinion of the Authority, to create in London the very conditions of unrest which the Ministry were professedly endeavouring to abate. Lord Devonport also appealed

to the recommendations of the Select Committee on National Expenditure which are quoted above, and said that until the proposed Government Committee had reported on the question of cost of living, the Authority would give no countenance to proceedings dealing with applications for increases of wages. The Government, however, persisted in forcing the arbitration. The case was heard by the Committee on Production in the absence of the London Port employers, and an award was given in exactly similar terms to those applying to the outports.

This is the fifth war bonus granted in London, and brings the rate of wage per hour there up to double what it was in 1914. We are prepared to believe that not a single member of the War Cabinet will defend this policy except on the ground that it is an emergency measure. But the question asked by the commercial community which looks beyond the immediate issue is: Are such violations of economic rules necessary? The apparent reason for giving whole classes of the community substantial increases of pay three times a year regardless of skill or industry applied by them in their calling, is that the men are thereby kept at work, and that the present and the future of the Port must be mortgaged to prevent a stoppage. We venture to doubt whether such an anti-heroic policy is necessary. It assumes that the workers are out not to win the war but to make what they can out of it. It imagines that the workers and their leaders are spoiled children, and have learned nothing from history or experience. There is a constant cry that the people of this country should be told the truth in regard to the campaign. Let them also be told economic truth as well as war truth. Surely Labour leaders of to-day know the meaning of the vicious circle, and it is impossible to contemplate that they would be parties to deliberately deceiving the men by encouraging the idea that high wages are of themselves a guarantee of plenty, apart from increase of production. Cease tricking them by cultivating the notion that a great war is not a national curse with sequels disastrous even to the victors, but an opportunity for converting the proletariat into *nouveaux riches*. Point out to them that, though certain classes may be able to avail themselves of the war situation to aggrandise themselves, there are millions not so placed, whose position gets more difficult with every rise in taxation and prices caused by the progressive advances in wages. We do not believe that such an appeal would fail.

We have referred to this question as affecting the Port of London, but there is infinitely more than a local question involved. We could show how the commercial supremacy of this country was originally founded upon the special position of the Port of London and the facilities offered there. In the letter above referred to Lord Devonport points out the handicap from which the Port will suffer after the war by reason of the high charges which the Authority is compelled by the Government to levy in order to pay for the higher wages. We endorse his warning. It will be no gain, but dead loss, to the docker to devote the lives of his sons to winning the war, if by his own action in making London an expensive port, the community of Hamburg is enabled after the war to capture the trade which is his living to-day. There is so much danger in the situation that we hope that the newly-formed Imperial Association of Commerce, of which Lord Inchcape is President, will devote some of its energies to educating the public further on this subject.

SIR WILLIAM ORPEN, K.B.E.

ORPEN came to London in 1895, from the South Kensingtonian regime of the Dublin School of Art. He had been studying art then for six years and he could draw, according to his lights. He entered the only school of draughtsmanship in England and there went on to draw according to their lights. The standard of draughtsmanship at the Slade School in

1895 was not the standard of South Kensington, but luckily for him and us Orpen was only seventeen when he came within the influence of Professor Brown and Mr. Tonks, and his native genius had not been deformed nor withered by his earlier environment. In four years he won the most coveted prize the Slade gave—the prize for Composition. His design turned up a year or so ago at a Grosvenor Gallery exhibition and quite shocked us by its mastery and the queerness of its outlook. These two qualities, the mastery of his technique and the strangeness of the angle at which he looks at life, have together pulled Orpen through the most dangerous days of his career. Singly they might have been unavailing to save him from his successfulness. But—thanks mainly to the latter quality—his strange acuteness of feeling and his queer satiric humour, he survived a period of serious popularity so unstaed and unimpaired that, when the chance of his life, as we say, came, he took it with the *élan* and insight that make his show, at Messrs. Agnew's, so impressive.

Its success is due to his mastery of expression and to that queer personal intensity and caprice to which allusion has been made. Being a master draughtsman, he was saved the trouble of resorting to some ingenious "ism" to disguise incompetence. He therefore came undistracted to the enormous difficulties of his task. Incidentally he proves that, far from being an impediment to significant expression, sheer, right, "representative" drawing is more expressive of significance than are uneducated substitutes. That is not to say that all his pictures and drawings come off perfectly; some fail through lack of significance and selective emphasis. But when the artist was keenly interested and surely and swiftly drawing his best, with no idea but to state accurately what he saw and felt, then we have no occasion for uneasiness about significance. Since Orpen was eleven years old, he has been learning how to see and how to translate thought and vision into *le mot juste* of draughtsmanship. He was schooled in a tradition that tolerated no evasions, no sophistry, no labour-saving theoretics. And to his initial advantage of a thought and vision out of the common his thirty odd years of thoroughness in pursuit and conclusiveness in experiment have added a flexible and powerful vocabulary. None was ever known to use a live and nice vocabulary, but he had behind it a quick and thoughtful mind; for words are but darts to transfix winged thought. At the same time it is true that constant unsatisfied endeavour to find the perfect statement whets perception: that thought and the effort to express it interact like blades sharpening each other.

Orpen's war drawings and pictures may be divided into literal, almost photographic, documents and dramatic interpretations of some truth observed or apprehended. His studies of types—"A man thinking," "Man in a Trench," "Wounded in the Chest," "Study of a Soldier," "South Irish Horse," "Iron Cross," "Heavy Gun," "Tank," and "German Prisoners" in a cage, are of great documentary value. As no war drawings we have seen they give permanently interesting facts from which in future times the quality of our men may be reconstructed. What would we not give for similar records of the men who fought under Hannibal or Leonidas, records that suggest not merely the physique and armament, but the psychology! Muirhead Bone's finest works are drawings of war machinery; but they are not more complete as documents nor better artistically than Orpen's "Heavy Gun." Our other official painters have given us, from the outside, rough silhouettes, empty husks or a dummy convention in the place of realised figures. But Orpen gives us a very considerable clue to the souls that suffered and endured within. His figures are individuals, yet they sum up and typify what manner of men they were who made the British New Army.

His dramatic interpretations spring naturally from that strain of the grotesque and queer which has always worked out in his pictorial conceptions. People who know his "Knackers Yard" (1909), "The Wild

Beast" (1907), or that inimitable satire "The Passing of his Lordship" of about that time, will need no assurance that the element of tragic whimsicality so noticeable in this exhibition is not a war-time expedient, but an authentic characteristic of Orpen's vision. It is not the ferocious and cynical drama of Goya nor the sombre tragedy of Daumier. Doubtless Orpen is very remiss in not rising to the sinister and terrible pitch of those greater masters; but a live Orpen is better than a pseudo-Daumier. His tragic muse is rather that of Pierrot and Pétrouchka. His "Man with a Cigarette," "The Falling Bomb," "The Receiving Room," and "A Death in the Snow" are of this kind, as is the remarkably inspired "Tommies passing to the Salient." In these things Orpen perceived more than casual incidents and less than stark, unmitigated horror or depression. What he saw is, for us at least, indefinable: compound of freakish extravaganza, strangely touching pathos, and undeniable truth. The sudden death in the snow evoked from its witnesses a scale of queer emotions, none precisely definable, none of a fixed type. The elongated gesture of the man who points bears some elusive and symbolic meaning: we seem to gain a momentary glimpse of a surprising but convincing truth; there is more going on than the apparent facts account for. It is a dangerous business to read meanings into a man's work, and like to result in the conjuror's feat of producing his own rabbits from another's hat. But, notwithstanding, are we not justified in feeling that there is a fuller significance than meets the eye in that wild, fantastic salutation of the Tommies passing out into the salient? Is there not, again, in the bleached and unseemly gaiety of the "Great Mine, La Boisselle" a sense of something accursed and uncanny, something from which life has fled as from the unwitnessed wastes of a moor landscape? Extravaganza is Orpen's vehicle; but it is symbolic of a truth not otherwise expressible. Another aspect of this exhibition is the painter's brilliant pictorial vision in rendering the ordinary things of his business, in masterly suggestion of textures, sunlight and shadow, strenuous action, bulk and weight. It is amusing, too, to see with what relish he lets himself loose on a sort of peace-time subject, such as "My Work Room," and himself in magnificent war panoply. His portraits of General Trenchard and M. de Maratray are in his happiest vein. All these pictures and drawings, we understand, he has presented to the State, with a large and simple gesture, characteristic of him. It will not be excessive to claim that the honour of knighthood just given him has been awarded with a fuller recognition of artistic worth than is customary in honours' lists.

We will conclude with a prosaic but necessary criticism, and a practical suggestion which may not be needed: (1) In these hard times and in view of their aims and Orpen's generosity it is absurd that the Ministry of Information, who direct the exhibition, should allow the charge of half a crown apiece for photographs of the exhibits; (2) soldiers, especially wounded, should be admitted free.

IMPORTING THE NAUGHTY WIFE.

THERE was a time when the United States imported their literature and drama wholesale from Great Britain. Without even seeing or sampling the "goods," American publishers and American managers accepted an English success by cable and began making arrangements for its disposal before the MS had been mailed. Those times are now almost historical; needless to say they are poignantly regretted by the English dramatic authors and novelists who remember them, and still, perhaps, are living upon the interest of American dollars easily earned and prudently invested in good securities. America to-day imports very little English literature or English drama, and what she now imports is carefully selected with particular reference to American taste, which is something quite different from English taste. Partly the change is

due to the fact that America is growing up (or likes it to be thought that she is growing up) and that she has begun to acquire intellectual and sentimental interests of her own. The Americans now like their novels and plays to be written in the American dialect and in accordance with standards and prejudices which have no reference to what the English may be thinking or achieving. The old procedure for an American (usually an American woman) who wanted to acquire a standing in the polite world was to read English books—to know all about Tennyson and Browning and to regret that Dickens wrote 'Martin Chuzzlewit.' Some of them came to London to absorb the English humanities on the spot. Others merely insisted that the American publishers should provide them punctually with the English books of the hour. One quaint result of the old American habit was that Americans usually knew more than we did about English classical authors recently dead. We have all met the American traveller in some spot or other secular to us but sacred to him because Ruskin or Herbert Spencer had done something there. We have met scores of Americans of the older generation who could tell us more than we had ever heard or dreamed of concerning some celebrated author or other whom they were taking very seriously and we were taking for granted. Americans do not take English authors seriously to-day. If an English author desires admittance to the American market in these days he must study American life and consult American taste, and the studying and consulting of America is usually fatal to his prestige at home. If an author fails to win the approval of the best English critics, it is not a bad plan for him to see what he can do on the other side of the Atlantic. The Americans may admire in him the qualities which we most heartily dislike. The English authors who succeed in America to-day often seem to be parting with their English birthright for a mess of American pottage. Consider the case of Mr. Richard Le Gallienne or of Mr. Alfred Noyes. Of the adaptability in taste and intelligence required for naturalising an English author in Chicago we will say nothing, for the moment. A nation which has just knighted the Manxman and suffered Mr. Pemberton Billing must be shy for a while of alluding to such matters.

The immediate motive of our reference to the changed conditions ruling in the American literary market is the successful production in London of two American farces—'The Naughty Wife' at the Playhouse and 'Fair and Warmer' at the Prince of Wales. Nothing could more signally proclaim the downfall of London as the leading theatrical clearing-house of the world than these two importations. It is not simply that they are American by hall mark. We have long been reduced to importing American plays by dozens owing to the gradual stifling of English dramatic activities by the theatrical undertakers and showmen who now manage the bulk of our entertainments. What is even more significant than the American trade mark of these plays is their French origin. We now import from America not only American plays of American life and of an American type, but also plays which the Americans have themselves imitated from Paris. We are apparently no longer equal to the miserable business of bowdlerising and adapting French farce for London consumption. To get to the boulevards we go to Broadway. London, which once supplied New York with English plays, now goes to New York for plays which are not even American. There is nothing in either of the American farces under discussion which could not be as well done in London by any playwright who had made a study of the French farce of intrigue.

The English playwrights in this particular are getting the French-American farces they deserve. Nothing has been more pitiable in English theatrical history than the way in which London has persisted in accepting Paris as a model for farce without even having come at the spirit or having so much as accepted the root assumption on which the French models are based. For

generations we have tinkered and toyed with the French farce of intrigue, attempting at the same time to enjoy its impropriety and to make it respectable. The ordinary bowdlerised farce from Paris, with its wit emasculated, its meaning mislaid, its humour blunted or disguised, never had a chance against any play, however derived, which had in it a vantage of life. The public mind could only think of such "bodiless creations" as Cleopatra thought of Mardian. The American farce-writers, who model themselves on Paris, handle their material fearlessly and skillfully. Their work is derived, but it is honestly derived. They exploit the humour of man's infidelity to woman and woman's infidelity to man with precision and clarity. They know what they are about, and do not, like our English authors, pretend that they are about something entirely different. They make their points and do not continually avoid them. They have studied their models carefully, they realise exactly where the fun comes in; and they set to work to do the same sort of things themselves, starting from first principles. There is no reason why the English should import 'The Naughty Wife' at great expense from Paris. There is still less reason why they should import her from New York.

THE SILHOUETTE.

SILHOUETTES have come to their own again. They are being sought for and written about; the work of their artists is being studied and classified; they are reaching the collector's cabinet. We have not been noted as a nation for austerity of taste, and it is a severe art we have here: and a searching test of profiles besides. It is a curious fact that the modern man comes out of the ordeal of the profile less satisfactorily than his great-grandfather, who had a toupee, real or artificial, to help him out; curls, too, and fichus lend more assistance to the process than the women's dresses and the hair fashions of to-day.

Why was this shadow portrait, known in England as early as the reign of William III. and celebrated by Swift a few years later, called a silhouette? In the year 1709 was born at Limoges one Etienne de Silhouette who, like many other Frenchmen of the age of Rousseau and Montesquieu, was destined to travel much in England and to imbibe an admiration for Pope and his contemporaries, and for the English constitution and financial system, to which, in a series of books and pamphlets, he drew the attention of his country. He translated the Essay on Man, the Dissertations of Bolingbroke and Warburton, and so highly was his work valued in France that after the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748, he was appointed one of the Commissioners on the delimitation of Franco-British interests in Acadia, and Royal Commissioner in the Compagnie des Indes: his *Memoires* on the former being published in 1755. Having won the ear of Madame de Pompadour, he was made Controller-General in 1759. He set to work on financial reforms which, within a few months, brought the Treasury 72 million livres. But when the Court perceived that his schemes involved economies in the personal expenses of the King and his Ministers, a land-tax on the estates of the nobles and attacks on vested interests, feeling turned against him. He had been strong enough, by the help of Madame de Pompadour, to persuade Louis XV. to send the Royal plate to the Mint to be melted down, but the example was not popular. He was attacked in caricatures and lampoons. Portraits à la Silhouette, i.e., shadow profiles; breeches à la Silhouette, i.e., without pockets, to signify the result of his Ministry, leapt into favour.

Monseigneur Silhouette,
Nous prend nos pots, nos plats et nos assiettes,
Monseigneur Silhouette,
Nous prend tout notre argent.

sang the Parisian.
Le Roi trop tard s'est résolu
A chasser le Silhouette,
Puisque le ciel avait voulu
Qu'il en eût fait l'employé.

After an eight months' Ministry he fell. Rousseau, who had begun by greeting him as another Aristides, afterwards spoke of the letter in which he used the phrase as "the only reprehensible thing I ever wrote in my life"; Voltaire, who had promised him a niche beside Colbert, had not a word to say in his defence. The fallen minister retired to his estates at Brie-sur-Marne, where he lived a life of devotion and died in 1767. Why was the Minister's name applied to shadow portraits? Perhaps as the author of shadowy economies, perhaps because his brief tenure of office was but the shadow of a shade. Anyhow, the name took, just as nowadays, among some, the word "cocoa" is gradually winning a place as an adjective to denote self-righteous hypocrisy. The Silhouette was familiar in France and Germany in the 1770's, in England twenty years later, though its growing popularity induced a learned German to protest against "these paltry outlines of a shadow, these dark and dismal profiles," as an outrage on the art of portraiture. Princess Elizabeth, daughter of George II. cut Silhouettes—influenced possibly by the flower-cutting of Mrs. Delany, who was held in high reverence by the Royal family and treated with great consideration in the home life of the Court. Be this as it may, the art became famous. Auguste Edouart, the best known of the fraternity of profilers, arrived in England shortly after 1813, and attained the position of Silhouettist to the Royal family of France and to the Duke of Gloucester, and by 1832 had executed 45,000 likenesses, all in duplicate, of which 600 were done at Edinburgh in a single fortnight, while 3,200 more were executed in a tour in the United States lasting from 1839 to 1849. Edouart, however, did not introduce the word Silhouette into England, though the statement that he did is made, since William Taylor of the ancient City of Norwich was using it familiarly in 1798. That Edouart was a great practitioner of the art is certain, but his very success had unfortunate results. Mechanical devices came into use to meet the demand for these portraits; the inventor of a certain profile-tracing machine had sold nearly one hundred of his machines to professional Silhouettists by 1840, and these affected the status of the art. The work of such masters as Charles or Miers or Edouart himself, was forgotten, and even Sam Weller could laugh at the "profeel-cutting machines" and their proprietors. The Silhouette degenerated in character and position, and such masterpieces as Edouart's Sir Walter Scott or the Blind Gingerbread-seller of Bath were forgotten until the present century, when thousands of Edouart's duplicates, all named and dated, came to light and led to the identification of many of the unnamed originals, (if one may use the phrase when both were done at once), in public and private possession. Look at a Silhouette, see how it presents, remorselessly, the essentials of face or figure. Yes, you say, but why is the process so familiar elsewhere? Yes, I have it—those Greek vases I saw in the Museum with their black figures outlined on a red ground. That is the method—forgotten for more than two thousand years, to be revived at the end of the seventeenth century. Those white or gold shadings on the more elaborate Silhouettes have their counterpart in the lines used by the Greeks to trace the human body or centaur's tail—they are all there and with what a difference! Those free and graceful figures of the ancient vases and the tight waist-coated, bestocked and befrilled figures of Georgian days—well, the contrast is not flattering to the taste of our countrymen. Nor would the Greek have committed the barbarism, all too common before Waterloo, of attaching a Silhouette head to a realistic body in two dimensions—in gay dress or uniform. But they have their place in our affections, these shadows of our ancestors. "A meagre form of portrait, made by tracing the outline of a shadow," says the Dictionary; yet this simplicity is attractive. Who would not rather have a great-grandmother's profile, softened with curls and lace, than a tawdry commonplace portrait by Winterhalter? One may say indeed, that the vogue of the Silhouette marked a

return to simplicity, a revolt from the complicated artificiality of convention a hundred years ago. And they have character too. That hooked nose which has persisted through a century, that receding chin whose disappearance in the next generation proclaims the successful grafting of a stronger stock, are not void of interest for the Darwinian or the student of the Mendelian theory. Indeed, it might fairly be argued that a complete collection of profiles for several generations is good matter for the eugenicist. There are more lordly ways of presenting the profile, as on the cameos and precious stones of the Roman Emperors or the medallions of the Italian Renaissance; but for homelier folk, for those whose forbears were not ancestral kings, there is nothing better than the Silhouette. Not the kind cut out in sticking plaster at the Bazaar of pre-war days, descendant of the "profeel-cutting machine" of Weller, junior, but the true Silhouette washed in Indian ink on a white or scarlet background, showing the wave of the hair where it is furthest from the forehead, the fall of lace modelled into the folds of the dress. And the real Silhouette is unforgettable. Childhood thinks in outline, and where the memories of my childhood have grown dim, those recalled by my Silhouettes will remain clear-cut till memory itself has passed away.

They bring back the dining-parlour of an old Georgian house at Norwich, with Silhouettes on both sides of the chimney-piece. Each was framed in a small square black frame with an oval opening edged with gilt metal, and hung on the wall from a ring in a gilt acorn fixed at the top of the frame. A pedigree in themselves, they now hang in my room as I write, recalling old stories connected with their once-living originals; how this one had heard Coke at the banquet in St. Andrew's Hall propose the toast "Live, and Let Live," and had seen him drive back to Holkham after an election, accompanied by "Weathercock" Windham who was always described as "a true gentleman;" how that one had seen the bonfire lighted in the Castle Ditches when the news of Waterloo arrived. Another of the Silhouettes had herself said to me that the tolling of the bell of St. Peter Mancroft, during several days, on the death of George III. had been one of the nightmares of her childhood. But it is getting late, and looking at the Silhouettes I am away in the past, for I fancy that I hear once more the watchman of long ago at Gurney's Bank crying as the Cathedral chime dies away, "Past twelve o'clock and a fine starry night."

VINDICTIVE.

I.

Well done, Vindictive:

Well done, it is not much to say.

Such words are lightly spoken

Among us every day.

Yet 'tis the crowning word

Of all that men have heard,

And rightly thine, O! battered hulk and broken

By time and faithful service.

Well done, Vindictive.

II.

All hail, Vindictive:

All hail, beloved heroic ship.

From every heart 'tis spoken,

It thrills on every lip.

All hail for evermore

Where on the further shore

Thou liest with thy dead for crowning token

Of service true and faithful,

All hail, Vindictive.

III.

Fare well, Vindictive:

Thy warfare is accomplished. Nay,

Some truer word be spoken

Of thee, the sailor's way.

Fare on, 'neath other stars

Bearing the faithful scars,

And in thy heart the old desire awoken

To peer beyond the horizon.

Fare on, Vindictive.

H. M.

Eton.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CO-OPERATIVE STORES SCANDAL.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—I have watched the discussion in your *Saturday Review* with increased conviction that this is a real first-class scandal built up upon humbug and political bribery. Co-operative stores batten on the taxes paid by other traders, and prosper by reason of the national protection, afforded them for the purpose of trading, at the expense of the rest of the community. Then, when the scandal is shown up a fountain of ink is squirted out by the official propaganda department of the Octopus, who then tries to escape under cover of an inky diversion of arguments. But it won't do. We are not all idiots. Nor must the co-operative scribes be allowed for an instant to insinuate that people who protest against the non-payment-of-income-tax-scandal are hostile to co-operative trading as such. That would be a false assumption. Co-operative trading is a pure, honest, admirable and desirable form of trade; but this crawling out of liability to pay its fair share of taxation is despicable and immoral. It has got to be stopped. Some years ago I think it was the London and North-Western Railway that was severely censured in the House of Commons for contributing towards a fund for national, or municipal, politics. The L. & N.W.Rly. was forbidden to do this. Yet the co-operative folks actually took a leading part in a political election recently by running (unsuccessfully) a Co-operative Stores candidate for Parliament for a Lancashire seat. Can humbug, political hypocrisy and political 'blind-eye-to-the-telescope' policy go further? Ask any north country Parliamentary candidate what his chances of election would be if he dared advocate that co-operative stores should be liable for taxation on their turnover as a balance to the income-tax paid by others. The official co-operative people would soon show him what was what on election day! The next step ought to be to render it an offence for co-operative societies to take any part in politics; what is wrong for the L. & N.W. Rly. should be wrong for the co-operative stores. But Ministers funk their duty. The public ought to be grateful to the *Saturday Review* for the light it has recently thrown on two powerful national institutions—the Directorate of the Bank of England and the co-operative stores. Few journals would dare to be David to these two Goliaths. I take my hat off to you, sir.

Yours, etc.,
"PRESTWICH."

June 2nd.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Justicia," in the issue of 1st June, displays an imperfect knowledge of co-operative finance and methods of working. He appears to believe that the Co-operative Wholesale Society "makes enormous profits." The C.W.S. does not make, and has no occasion to make, enormous profits. It is run and financed by about 1,200 retail societies, whose sole interest is to have the goods produced by, or purchased from, others through the society, transferred to them at net cost plus only the expenses of carrying on the society. It is, of course, difficult to price the goods so that at the end of each accounting period there should be neither surplus nor deficiency. In 1916 the society returned to the societies controlling it 6d. (2½ per cent.) on every £1 spent in purchases. If income-tax had been leviable on that sum the directors would have taken care, by closer estimates of the running expenses, that there should have been no surplus sixpence to return, and, consequently, no income-tax levy.

"Justicia" disbelieves the statement that "three or four millions of co-operators have incomes below £130 a year, or so near the figure as to make the tax not worth collecting." He seems to forget, if he

has ever known, which is doubtful, that when a man's income mounts to £130, income-tax is not straight-away levied on that sum. A generous Government allows him £120 to keep body and soul together, and if he has a wife he is now allowed to deduct something on her account, and something on account of children, owing to their benefit to the State; and also he is allowed to deduct the sums paid in insurance premiums up to a certain limit. When all these deductions have been made, nothing is left, in the great majority of cases, on which income-tax could be charged. A very large proportion of co-operators are married men, and, consequently, entitled to all these deductions; while another considerable section consists of women, very few of whom have incomes up to the tax limit.

Reference is made to the Revenue officials having no difficulty in dealing with the claims for repayment of deducted income-tax coming from "the millions of small shareholders in joint-stock companies." I have no belief in the existence of these indefinite "millions." They do exist, of course; and it is their troublesome existence which has disinclined Chancellors of the Exchequer—whether Unionist or Liberal—from knowingly taking steps to add, not problematical, but actual "millions" to their numbers. In 1915 the average rate returned to the Retail Societies on each £1 spent by members in purchases was, in England, 2s. 3½d.; Scotland, 3s.; Ireland, 1s. 2½d., making the average for the United Kingdom 2s. 4½d. A member spending on groceries £50 in a year would have had returned to him £5 18s. 9d. If he had to pay income-tax at 2s. 6d. on that amount he would still have found £5 4s. in his own pocket, instead of knowing that it was lining the pocket of the retailer; while all the year he had the feeling that he had never been in debt for grocery supplies. That feeling is not shared by all non-co-operators.

No. 18358, ST. CUTHBERT'S CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, EDINBURGH.

JUGO-SLAVS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—In your issue of May 11th the following passage occurs: "Added to which the extravagant pretensions of the Jugo-Slavs to a lion's share of the spoils cannot fail to arouse uneasiness in Bohemia, Montenegro and Poland."

Allow me to point out that this sentence is quite devoid of any real foundation. The Czechs and the Jugo-Slavs are fighting shoulder to shoulder against their Austrian oppressors. There is no jealousy between them, because both of them demand their rights only. The same applies to the Poles, whilst, as regards Montenegro, I think it ought to be known by now that the Montenegrins are Jugo-Slavs; hence they cannot be jealous of themselves. But regarding the main point in your statement, "the extravagant pretensions of the Jugo-Slavs to a lion's share of the spoils," I think that history and ethnography teach us that they demand only the territories inhabited by their race in absolute majority; if you term this "extravagant," then I would like to know what you would term "right."

I think that to make offensive statements against one's own Allies is not characteristic of the British spirit of fairness, and I have no doubt that this particular statement was published in your paper owing to an error. The Jugo-Slavs—Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes—in Serbia and outside it, have made such sacrifices for the common cause that they ought not to be exposed to baseless attacks. Their aim is liberation and union, and not spoliation and conquest.

Yours very truly,

PAVLE OSTOVIC.

May 15th, 1918.

A LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—There are, surely, two ways of preventing international wars, the first being the limitation of

population, and the second being the acceptance of universal Free Trade and the policy of Laissez Faire.

Without doubting the Divine origin of the Universe, we may certainly recognise that the present most appalling and disastrous war is immediately due neither to the will of the Almighty nor the wiles of the Devil, but largely to the incorrigible fecundity of German women on the one hand, and, on the other, to the fact that the French view of "Life" and the French love of thrift have combined to limit very strictly the population of France.

Before the war the birth-rate in France was about 19 per thousand, against something like 29 in Germany, and it was the latter's teeming population which gave the Kaiser the excuse—or, as he deemed it, the reason—for demanding for his people "a place in the sun."

It is quite possible that one of the effects of the war will be the stricter limitation of families, since women may well hesitate to endure the pains and the burdens of motherhood merely to furnish fresh victims to be sacrificed to Mars. This tendency will, in all likelihood, be strengthened by the greater share henceforth to be taken by women in the world's politics and work. Woman, as politician and as the earner of wages of, say, £2 a week will be inclined to despise the dullness and drudgery of domesticity and maternity, and she will thus complete the eclipse of the White Man's ascendancy already begun on the blood-stained fields of France and Flanders, since the coloured races of mankind are not likely to be induced into sterility for the next 50 years at least.

In regard to the alternative course, it is fairly obvious that if men could go anywhere without let or hindrance, and make and buy and sell everywhere at their pleasure, trade could no longer be held to "follow the flag," and there would be a distinct slump in particularism and nationalism, and a distinct reduction in the occasions and excuses for war. On the other hand, in the estimation of some people the boon of universal peace would be purchased too dearly by the sacrifice of national prerogatives and privileges. That may well be, but we Englishmen have reached a point where we are bound to recognise that we cannot have it both ways—we have to understand that, just as in mechanics, what is gained in power is lost in speed, so in international politics what is gained in the way of peace is lost in the way of patriotism.

Yours faithfully,

C. F. RYDER.

Scarcroft, Near Leeds.

3rd June, 1918.

MEXICAN FINANCE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—I was very much surprised to read the note published in your paper on the 1st of this month. The Mexican Government are at present making a study of the foreign debts, and before long they will announce the way in which they will carry out this business.

To-day I have been at the American Embassy, and I am authorised by them to deny that the public opinion in the United States is as you state. In view of these facts I will expect you to contradict the statement to which I refer.

Yours faithfully,

F. R. VILLAVICENCIO.

NATIONAL WAR BONDS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—May I be allowed to enquire whether, after investing in 5 per cent. War Bonds, it is quite fair to ask us to return our dividends? With the present almost prohibitory prices, in what way are we expected to subsist and to pay our way? Is it on the hopes that are held out, that after holding these Bonds "for a

few years" the principal may be returned to us, or something more? Our lives are not interminable, so this benefit may accrue when many of us no longer exist. The interest of 5 per cent. no doubt sounds high on paper, but after the reduction of six shillings in taxation on each pound, to say nothing of an enormous super-tax in many cases, this reduces the interest to a very different figure. In France the National War Bond pays 5 per cent. free from taxation, and I have not heard that the French are expected to make a return of their dividends.

I am, etc.,

G. C. W.

"DIVIDE BY EIGHT."

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Confronted with your orthodox praise of the pound sterling, I hesitate to disclose mine own heterodox notions! However, feeling sure you will hear all sides in sporting fashion, and at the risk of finding "my number up" (8!), I cast my bread upon the waters of controversy to find, or not to find, after many days.

Scrap the sacrosanct sovereign, then, and make a value of 16 shillings the new monetary unit, calling it the "coin." Divide it by 8, but call the resultant florin the "Brit" (c.p., French franc). Divide by 8 again, and call resultant 3d. the "Groat." Divide by 8 once more, calling resultant $\frac{3}{4}$ d. the "Mite." No confusion here with British halfpenny, U.S.A. cent. or mil, or French centime.

Now for an example of conversion from old to new notation:—£4 4s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. = C5. 2B. 1G. 4M., or = C5—214.

Let there be no gold or silver. All token money, paper and base metal. How absurd it is to be using some £200,000,000 in £1 and 10s. Currency Notes, practically inconvertible to gold, in conjunction with a comparatively and intrinsically valuable silver and bronze coinage!

The coin should be represented by both a metal piece and a note. There would also be pieces of smaller value, namely, 1, 2 and 4 Brits, 1, 2 and 4 Groats, and 1, 2 and 4 Mites. Ten coins in all, and all of comfortable sizes. The notes of higher value than one coin would rise in the denary scale—thus: 1, 2, 5; 10, 20, 50; 100, 200, 500; 1,000.

Tempt France and the 11 Latin Union States to make 20 francs their new monetary unit, by offering to adopt the fundamental metric units, if they will level up 20 francs to our 16 shillings, by adding a value of 1.74d.; and invite the U.S.A. to make 4 dollars their new monetary unit, adjusting to our 16 shillings by deducting a value of 5.28d. If the British Empire, U.S.A. and Latin Union States and Colonies so combine, more than half the population of the world will be using the same monetary unit. Mr. Oliver E. Bodington's "approximate dollar" (4 shillings) is useless.

EUSTACE G. EDWARDS,

Major, Royal Artillery (Retired).

61, Clifton Park Road,
Clifton, Bristol.

10th June, 1918.

WHAT IS A LUXURY?

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Our Chancellor's excellent Budget proposal to innovate a tax on luxuries is now engaging the attention of a mixed committee of both sexes, who, in due course, will submit their report to Parliament; no doubt, this committee will refer to the French list of luxurious articles catalogued in France, but it does not follow that that roll will be strictly adhered to, and it would be folly if it were.

Chambers' Dictionary thus defines a luxury: "a free indulgence in rich diet, or costly dress, or equipage, a dainty, wantonness."

It is a comforting reflection that, *for once in a way*, we are borrowing a scheme—"the taxation of luxuries"—from a *French* system and not a *German* one!

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,
H. E. DOLPHIN,
Lieut.-Colonel.

Oak Lodge, Guildford.
May 29th, 1918.

THE BILLING CASE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—There are two points in this case which seem to be missed. I, therefore, crave your permission to draw public attention to them in the interests of justice as well as the larger issues of national welfare.

(1) It is absolutely unthinkable that no notice is to be taken by the Public Prosecutor of a statement made on oath in the witness box that two gentlemen were done away with on account of their knowledge of the contents of a certain book. That statement was made deliberately in a Court of Justice, and the witness is either sane or insane; while the statement is either true or false. If the Crown treats such a statement with the contempt of silence, it will make the mistake of playing the very game that a certain type of person wants to be played.

(2) The person who defied the Censor in producing the play which was forbidden ought to be prosecuted. The verdict of the jury was probably based upon the necessity of trampling down German propaganda. It is idle to pretend that there is not wide-spread uneasiness on this score. We must remember that we are living in very abnormal times, and we must also bear in mind the psychology of "mass suggestion," which, in simple language, means that once an idea gets a dominant hold of the masses it will produce consequences irrespectively of its truth or falsity. The Germans have repeatedly shown their knowledge of "mass suggestion" while the Allies have been innocent as doves but blind as moles.

If these two points are ignored a tremendous mistake will be made in political strategy, and the opportunity missed of clearing the air of a lot of poison gas.

Yours &c.,
ARTHUR LOVELL.

THE HAVES AND THE HAVE-NOTS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—You have been kind enough on previous occasions to allow me to ventilate some of my lucubrations in your esteemed columns. May I now make another remark?

There are and probably always will be two great divisions in the body politic, *i.e.*, those who possess something (land, money, credit, or the respect of their neighbours) and those who do not; the former may be called the "Haves" and the latter the "Have-nots."

At the beginning of the present war a truce was declared between the two, in order that the world war might be brought to an issue favourable to the British Empire.

In ordinary circumstances those whom I have designated as the "Haves" always held a trump card in their hands, *i.e.*, of "bolting" and removing their belongings to some other part of the globe when their position in their native land had become unpleasant. This "trump card" is now out of their hands, consequently the "Have-nots" have elected to break the truce and bring forward all their favourite nostrums for the destruction of the "Haves," in which they are assisted by the fact that the majority of the "Haves" and their sympathisers are engaged outside the country in defending the existence of both the "Haves" and the "Have-nots." It would appear that the only effective form of argument which the "Haves" can now use is to borrow the one which is so freely and (from their point of view) advantageously

used by the "Have-nots," *i.e.*, to go on strike; and refuse to do any more public business (which at present they do gratuitously) until the truce declared has become a reality, and those who survive the defence of their possessions have returned to fight for political honesty at home.

Now to elucidate this: Suppose for a moment that, in order to enforce the political truce, all the "Haves" who at present are working gratuitously for their country, the County Councillors, the Guardians of the Poor, the Parish and District Councillors, the Magistrates, the Income-tax Commissioners, the Surveyors, the Local Tribunals and Food Committees, and others too numerous to mention, threatened to "go on strike" all on the same day, and to refuse to levy rates, pay taxes, or do any work whatever, as a protest, would our present (elected as unpaid but now paid) legislators, whose term of office has legally expired, attend to their demands or not—or what would happen?

The majority of these offices mentioned above are held by virtue of popular election, and those who hold them presumably represent the nation; their names are all to be found in print, and inter-communication and organisation would not be difficult. We hear a good deal of mention of "democracy" now; are not the people's representatives as duly elected a part of it which is worth consideration?

Yours truly,
A LOCAL HOLDER OF MOST OF THE ABOVE
OFFICES.

INCOME-TAX FOR WOMEN.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—The increasing injustice to married women of small incomes with regard to income-tax remains unredressed.

In perusing the discussion on other concessions, it is astonishing that no voice is raised on this point.

No one can deny the inconsistency of continuing the income of husband and wife in this instance, and legally separating them in all others.

D. C.

THE CONSUMPTIVE SOLDIER.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—The figures quoted by Mr. Arthur Lovell in your issue of the 25th ulto. from the 'British Journal of Tuberculosis,' which estimates that over 200,000 soldiers will require treatment, cannot fail to make a deep impression on the public mind. This appalling number will have to be added to the scores of thousands of cases amongst the civilian population already undergoing sanatoria treatment, which members of the medical profession are beginning to acknowledge falls very short indeed of public expectation when the open-air cure was boomed by the profession as the one thing needful.

The painful conviction is forced upon even the humblest intellects that all is not well with present medical methods and sanatoria treatment, and the remedy consists in public opinion demanding the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into and put to practical tests all new ideas which can be collected on the subject of this great plague, in the best interests of the nation.

Yours faithfully,
E. W. KEEN.

Chorleywood.
6th June, 1918.

KIPLING AS POET.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Your reviewer of 'Twenty Poems from Rudyard Kipling' cites the expression "taunt," which occurs in 'The Long Trail.' Evidently Kipling has tripped in the use of this word, for the context shows that "taut" is the word required. A ship's rigging

when of hemp tightens with moisture, and, in fact, water is often applied to get that result; hence "ropes taunt with dew" should read "ropes taut with dew." Since Chaucer, "taut" has been in common use as signifying "tight," though now almost exclusively a nautical expression. "Taunt" means high, and, while the expression "a taunt ship" is by no means uncommon in literature, it has never entered into the common vocabulary of the people or of the sea. Shakespeare, who is unusually accurate in the use of nautical expressions, writes of a *tall* ship—"Yon tall anchoring bark" ('King Lear,' Act IV., Scene 6).

Yours faithfully,

H. L. REIACH.

Royal Thames Yacht Club.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—The lines,

"Green Sussex fading into blue,
With one grey glimpse of sea,"

certainly describe the charm of that county with much felicity. They are not, however, as you seem to imply, by Kipling, but by Tennyson.

The expression, "sleek complacency," is surely quite inapplicable to Tennyson's patriotic verse such as the noble ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington.

Yours faithfully,

C. L. D.

[Our correspondent and others draw a conclusion which is unwarranted. The reviewer credited readers of the S.R. with being able to distinguish Tennyson from Kipling, and purposely quoted Tennyson's description of Mr. Kipling's adopted county because, as he says, later, there is something Tennysonian in Mr. Kipling's poetry.

The "sleek complacency" does not apply to the Wellington ode, but to that Victorian vein of the poet which celebrates the Prince Consort, "King Albert" as Swinburne called him.—ED. S.R.]

OUR BIRDS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Mr. Borrett is quite right when he says: "The country seems to have gone mad on killing every living thing."

When I was a child I was taught that it was right to feed the birds, and wrong to squash flies. Now it is a criminal offence to feed a starving cat or the birds, and at Village Fêtes the vicar gives a copy of the 'Pilgrim's Progress' and makes a suitable address to those boys who have robbed the most bird's nests and killed the most small birds.

Even those children who are too small to kill birds are not disappointed. They are given prizes for squashing the most flies, and the little girls are made happy with a work-basket for crushing the most butterflies.

What charming habits to teach children!

WALTER WINANS.

Carlton Hotel, Pall Mall.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—In one of the weekly papers there is a paragraph about the recent plague of caterpillars, attributing it to want of spraying due to shortage of labour. Why this wilful wrongheadedness? Everyone knows that the plague is due to shortage of birds. Some people seem determined that the birds shall not escape slaughter even though there is the strongest evidence of their services to man. Is this sheer cruel love of destruction?

Yours faithfully,

WINIFRED JONES.

HURRELL FROUDE AND 'A SPIRITUAL ÆNEID.'

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Your correspondent Mr. Hall takes the expression "enfant terrible" too seriously, as though it meant something really terrible and troublesome. It was not because Hurrell Froude, "the bright and beautiful," was disloyal to the Church of England, or a thorn in her side, that I called him that, but because he loved to shock safe and respectable Moderates by language of amusing intransigence, and to make the British public's flesh creep by slashing attacks on the blessed Reformation, the glorious Revolution, the March of Mind, and so forth. When Froude's *Remains* were published after his death by Keble and Newman, there was much consternation, questions were asked in Parliament, and the Martyrs' Memorial was erected at Oxford. Froude did not wish or try to upset the ecclesiastical coach, but he was resolved to be on the box. "Isaac," he told Williams in Trinity Grove, "we must make a row in the world." But in 1836 he died untimely. It is good to know that there are yet those who cherish the memory of this brilliant and fascinating character, but Mr. Hall misreads my brief allusion.

THE REVIEWER OF 'A SPIRITUAL ÆNEID.'

P.S.—The dropping out of "auto" before "biography" made my little jest about ought-not-to-beography, I fear, a little meaningless.

THE VICTORIAN ERA.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—In the Romanes Lecture at Oxford Mr. Asquith omitted to point out that all the prominent men he named were born and brought up under the Aristocratic period of Government which prevailed until 1832, the year of the first Reform Bill, i.e., they were born during the Georgian period.

The orators and mediocrities who have brought the country to its present pass were all born during the middle-class and democratic Victorian Era. "By their fruits shall ye know them."

Yours faithfully,

H. N. ROBSON,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

THE FIGURE OF THE PICCADILLY FOUNTAIN.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—People passing Piccadilly Circus recently will have noticed that the winged figure (whose personality has puzzled many) has flown away, or rather, as I suppose, been removed by order of a wise authority lest it might fall a victim to a German bomb.

It seems an opportune moment to repeat again a suggestion I made in a letter to the *Saturday Review* some years back. At that time the *Saturday Review* was actively interested in the acquisition for the nation of a work or works by Rodin, and I ventured to ask if our own foremost sculptor, Alfred Gilbert, should not also be represented in one of our national museums. I suggested that if it might be difficult to get reproductions of some of his works, in the hands of private collectors, it would at least be easy to procure a cast of the figure of the Fountain. This beautiful figure, so perfect in poise and balanced movement, is complete in itself, and would lose nothing by being disconnected with its setting. Now that it has been taken down from its pedestal a convenient opportunity presents itself to get the statue moulded and cast, to be seen later on beside the works of Rodin and Alfred Stevens in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Just a word as regards the personality of the figure. It so happened that I met Alfred Gilbert a day or two after the Fountain was unveiled, and I asked him the signification of the figure. He told me it was a repre-

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sensation of Charity (in the old sense of the word, of course). I remembered that in the sketch model of the Fountain which I had seen in his studio standing female figures of the three Christian graces—Faith, Hope, and Charity—surmounted the basin. This arrangement, if more conventional than the later composition, had an advantage in that the Mass was in construction perhaps more satisfactory. But Gilbert would be original in whatever he did, and probably for that reason he rejected the three figures and set above the basin a new embodiment of Charity discharging his arrow or shaft (which latter word playfully connects itself with the name of the man whose memory the Fountain was erected to commemorate). Round the basin it was intended that there should be modelled in relief scenes connected with the life of Lord Shaftesbury. But Gilbert's artistic sense seems to have rebelled against this idea, and he substituted the present decorative panels.

Yours, etc.,

A. G. ATKINSON.

Richmond, Surrey.

June 4th, 1918.

"WIGGING."

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—If a wiggling ever meant a contest, it might be referred to the Anglo-Saxon "wigan"—to carry on war, to fight, to contend (Bosworth's A.S. English Dictionary).

But does it? Surely a wiggling is always given, *de haut en bas*, to an inferior by authority, scholastic, judicial or other: by some Bigwig. I never heard it applied to scolding between equals.

Pigwigglin (testibus Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable, and Toynbee's Walpoles Letters, Vol. 1, p. 289, note) is, 'An elf in love with Queen Mab. He combats the jealous Oberon with great fury.' Drayton (Nymphidia). I have not the book, but, as I remember, Pigwigglin, armed Cap-a-pie, rides on a curvetting earwig.

Now, Horace Walpole's first mention of his cousin as 'Pigwigglin' is, in a letter to Mann (Oct. 8, 1742), in which he 'must tell a new story.' The story is of Sir Robert's giving a little horse for Pigwigglin.' It is possible that Horace gave the nickname, out of Drayton, to his cousin, when the boy first mounted the 'little horse.'

Yours, etc.,

CECIL H. KENT.

A POINT IN 'PARADISE LOST.'

To the Editor of THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Belial's speech in Book 2 of 'Paradise Lost' includes the suggestion that to "exasperate th' Almighty Victor" would be tantamount to committing suicide,

"sad cure; for who would lose,

Though full of pain, this intellectual being,

Those thoughts that wander through Eternity?"

In the editions I have used for many years "lose" is printed, but I always thought it ought to be "loose" ("perdere," not "amittere"). That I now find is the reading of the earlier editions. It appears in the Third Edition of 1687; and in Dean Beeching's Clarendon Press text, which relies on the two editions of 'Paradise Lost' published during Milton's lifetime. But "lose" is printed as early as 1711, in the Ninth Edition, adorned with Sculptures and Printed for Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's Head. Bartlett's 'Familiar Quotations, Author's Edition, Routledge, which I bought last year, has "lose" also. I mention this, not because Bartlett is an authority, but because people are usually too lazy to go to the actual text, when they can get an extract from it quicker elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,

J. K.

REVIEWS.

A DISTINGUISHED ESSAYIST.

Eminent Victorians. (Manning, Arnold, F. Nightingale, Gordon). By Lytton Strachey. Chatto and Windus. 10s. 6d. net.

MR. STRACHEY agrees with Stevenson that "the obscurest epoch is to-day," and that history cannot be written by contemporaries, because they know too much, "ignorance being the first requisite of the historian," to quote one of the paradoxes of which our essayist is dangerously fond. Mr. Strachey presents these essays modestly as "certain fragments of the truth which took my fancy and lay to my hand." We agree that "the art of biography seems to have fallen on evil times in England"; though to say that "it is, perhaps, as difficult to write a good life as to live one" is another of those witticisms which, rare enough in these dull days, are, nevertheless, a snare. The biographical essay is the most difficult and precious branch of the larger art, and it is but too true that it has been "relegated to the journeymen of letters." That, however, is the fault of the publishers, who accept reluctantly and pay badly essay literature, believing that the only "sellers" are sensational or statistical books—a sad symptom of the taste of a half-educated public. We are infinitely grateful to Mr. Strachey for reviving the biographical essay. Not since we read Sir James Stephen's 'Essays in Ecclesiastical Biography' and Bagehot's incomparable 'Biographical Studies' have we experienced so much pleasure as Mr. Strachey has given us in these four essays on 'Eminent Victorians.' They have the true note of distinction: they combine the vivacity and sympathy of Stephen with the humour and sane judgment of Bagehot. Religious personalities, by-the-bye, seem to have the same attraction for Mr. Strachey as for Sir James Stephen.

We have nothing to do with an author's intentions; we can only judge of his characters by the impression made on ourselves by his writing. Mr. Strachey must not, therefore, complain that we impute to him a severity or a sinister interpretation which he did not mean. Manning appears to our eyes in these pages as a scheming and unscrupulous priest, who intrigued Dr. Errington and the Old Catholics into the background and himself into the foreground as archbishop and cardinal. His treatment of Newman was equally underhand and ungenerous, while his fervent adoption of the thoroughly un-English doctrine of Papal Infallibility places him in the category of those ecclesiastical politicians who ruled France through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The only point in which Cardinal Manning differs from Bishop Blougram is his asceticism, for it was certainly not the sensuality of power that stirred his restless activity. Perfect in its incisive brevity is Mr. Strachey's criticism of Lord Acton, "a historian, to whom learning and judgment had not been granted in equal proportions." The truth is that Lord Acton lacked character. He had not energy enough to reduce his vast knowledge to the size of a book; he saw through Democracy and said so; he also saw through the Papacy, but had not the courage to leave the Church. "Lord Acton, while straining at the gnat of Infallibility, had swallowed the camel of the Roman Catholic Faith. 'Que diable allait-il faire dans cette galère?' one cannot help asking, as one watches that laborious and scrupulous scholar, that life-long enthusiast for liberty, that almost hysterical reviler of priestcraft and persecution, trailing his learning so discrepantly along the Roman way." Verily Mr. Strachey has put his Lord Acton in his proper place.

The least pleasing of these essays is the one on Dr. Arnold of Rugby. As a biography it is very slight, and as a moral appreciation it is unworthy. The Arnold tradition could never have been created and transmitted by so commonplace a person as the Headmaster of Mr. Strachey's pages. It would have been wiser to omit this essay, as the writer

is evidently uninterested and unsympathetic, a combination which makes for dullness. But what a picture in the next essay of Miss Florence Nightingale! What a terrible woman! How ruthlessly Mr. Strachey strips off the sacrosanct garments in which gratitude and idealism have enveloped the goddess, and shows us the self-willed, pitiless, unscrupulous, imperious woman, who was yet justified because her ends were not selfish! We have no pity for "the Bison," Lord Panmure, whom she bullied so, because he was a bluff, invulnerable Scottish peer, who really was a type of aristocratic incompetence in high places. But Miss Nightingale literally killed Sidney Herbert, worked to death that delicate, fastidious, and most amiable statesman, and then, womanlike, wept over her handiwork, and worshipped the dead man as "Master." The description of the appalling condition of the Scutari hospital and the disgraceful state of the Army Medical Service during the Crimean war should be read by everybody, if only to enable them to appreciate the splendid efficiency of that service to-day. We had an echo of the Scutari scandal in the report of the Mesopotamian Commission on the Kut expedition. Nobody was punished for the Scutari horrors; and nobody was punished for the sufferings of the wounded in General Nixon's army; and so it will always be. Florence Nightingale did a noble and imperishable work in reforming the Army Medical Service, and the conditions of military hospitals, though even now these are far from being what they ought to be. It was not Miss Nightingale's fault that Netley Hospital was badly built. The legend of Florence Nightingale as a sweet saint, and, like all saints, meek, was due to the fact that she lived to a very great age, and dwindled into anility. In her prime, when she was doing things, and moving official incompetence to attempt its duty, she was neither sweet nor meek, and if she had been, would have done nothing. As Queen Victoria said, "What a head! I wish we had her at the War Office!" She was efficiency in petticoats, and it is not probable that we shall see her like again.

The last essay, on General Gordon, is the best, and is indeed a masterly contribution to the understanding of an historical tragedy. Four important actors appear, Gordon, Gladstone, Evelyn Baring, and Hartington. On each Mr. Strachey turns his flashlight, with rather ghastly effects. We learn, for instance, that the brave, generous, God-fearing hero alternated in his vacant hours between reading the Bible and drinking brandy, which accounts for much of his madness. The odds were tremendous. Gordon had to fight the Mahdi in the Soudan, Baring at Cairo, Gladstone in England, while Hartington was the slow sad chorus of Greek tragedy. When we have admitted that Gordon was an extremely trying person, with his texts, his telegrams, his brandy bottle, and his obstinacy, nevertheless the crime of Gladstone and Baring is very black. Gladstone, who was absorbed in the Reform Bill, the Russians, and the House of Lords, regarded Egypt as a bore, and was quite determined not to interfere in the affairs of that country, which he was apparently willing to present either to France or Germany. Gordon was asked and undertook to "evacuate the Soudan," that is, to withdraw the Egyptian soldiers and European officers and agents. On arriving at Khartoum, Gordon saw the colossal blunder of abandoning the Soudan and Egypt to anarchy, and determined to force Baring and Gladstone to bring over English troops to save those countries, and add them to the Empire. His method of forcing Gladstone's hand was to stay at Khartoum until he was relieved by an English army coming up the Nile to "smash the

Mahdi." Gordon was ordered to leave Khartoum by Baring and the Home Government. He refused, on the ground that it would be "an indelible disgrace" to leave the Egyptian garrisons in the Soudan to be murdered by the Mahdi. Not that he, Gordon, could relieve or protect the garrisons by remaining at Khartoum; and in a short time it was he who needed protection, for he no longer could leave Khartoum. Deliberately Gordon allowed himself to be locked up at Khartoum in order to force Gladstone to intervene with troops in Egyptian affairs. Gladstone saw, and accepted, the challenge: he determined that he would not send troops to Egypt, and deliberately he prevented their being sent until he was forced to do so by the Queen and Lord Hartington, when it was too late. That Gladstone sacrificed Gordon's life rather than be forced into a policy he disapproved Mr. Strachey is convinced, as is everyone who reads the facts. Mr. Strachey's analysis of Gladstone's character is one of the most brilliant and penetrating pieces of historical criticism we have ever read. His portrait of that much over-rated person, the late Lord Cromer, is merciless, but justified by the facts; while his appreciation of the slow, common-place, Lord Hartington reminds us all of a familiar figure. We wish that we had space to quote from Mr. Strachey's description of Gordon's horrible death and Lord Wolseley's too-late expedition. But we must stop with his final sentence. "At any rate, it had all ended very happily—in a glorious slaughter of twenty thousand Arabs, a vast addition to the British Empire, and a step in the peerage for Sir Evelyn Baring." Since writing these lines, we see that Mr. Asquith endorses our appreciation of these essays. But he describes Mr. Strachey as "subtle and suggestive." Those are not the adjectives which we should apply to the strong, clear strokes of Mr. Strachey's style.

VENUS VICTRIX.

God's Counterpoint. By J. D. Beresford. Collins. 6s. net.

THOSE who think that the physical relations between husband and wife are an adequate and seemingly subject for a novel will enjoy Mr. J. D. Beresford's clever analysis of the feelings of a morbid male Puritan and a healthy female Pagan. We are old-fashioned and simple enough to think that a novel should contain characterisation, or a plot, or both. We remember that the famous Victorian novelists wrote round some striking incident, a forged will, a murder, or an historical episode like Waterloo, or presented us with a group of typical characters, as in 'Middlemarch' and 'Barchester Towers.' Beyond a slight but admirable sketch of a Dulwich solicitor, there are no characters in "God's Counterpoint," and there is no pretence of a plot. The book is from first to last a subtle but unreserved description of the struggle of a healthy and clever woman to overcome the unhealthy and insane asceticism of the male virgin whom she has been so mistaken as to marry. A young woman who is foolish enough to agree with a young man before marriage that their union shall be one of mind and not of body, certainly deserves the fate of Evelyn Lang. But she had no intention of keeping the bargain, and she was as confident of victory after marriage as Venus on Mount Ida. And succeed she did in the first year, for a boy was born. After that Philip relapsed into the madness of the early monks rather than the Puritans, tortured by dreams and shuddering at the slightest allusion to sexuality. After four years of

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separation under the same roof, Mr. Beresford arranges his Temptation of St. Anthony by the arrival as a visitor of a Frenchwoman, a cousin of the wife, supposed to be married to an American millionaire, and certainly "a very heathen in the carnal part." Helène understands her business so well that she induces Philip to leave his beautiful wife and boy and charming home and wallow with her in the Epicurean sty of a Bloomsbury hotel for a week or two. It was Byron who first observed that this class of women were "useful, like Malthus, in promoting marriage." Helène effectually cured Philip of his asceticism, and taught him a thing or two, and restored him to his wife, clothed and in his right mind. For it is needless to add that Philip and Evelyn are reconciled, and start their married life a second time in due conformity with the text of the marriage service.

Once more we ask, as we have often asked before, what is the significance of the sexual novel? There must be thousands of people obsessed by sexuality, or these novels would not stream in thousands from the press. Is it a subconscious protest against the asceticism of Christianity? Théophile Gautier, an avowed Pagan, said that mysticism, melancholy, and virginity, were "trois nouvelles maladies nous apportées par le Christ." Is that the feeling of the present generation? It certainly looks as if the de-throned gods and goddesses were after many years recovering their kingdom from the pale Galilean and his mother.

The Mystery of the Downs. By Watson & Rees. Lane. 6s. net.

READERS of 'the Hampstead Mystery' will be glad to renew their acquaintance with Mr. Crewe, and with another mystery worthy of his powers. The opening scene is well laid—a storm on the moors, a solitary horseman seeking shelter, a farmhouse with a lady who has also taken shelter below, while in the upper room a dead man sits shot through the body. Hither and thither the reader follows the false trails laid by the authors, even when he suspects the right person doing so for the wrong reasons, until at last the whole mystery is unveiled, and we are left with the murderer face to face with detection. If detective stories were a new genre, we should call this a great book, as it is, we congratulate the authors on having overcome the double difficulties of constructing an ingenious plot and a good story without allowing the experienced reader to guess their formula. We congratulate them also on their strength of mind in keeping the story free from extraneous interests; neither love nor scholarship is woven into their plot—the play's the thing. 'The Mystery of the Downs' is a first-rate detective story.

A MID-VICTORIAN HOME IN IRELAND.

The Things of a Child. By M. E. Francis. Collins. 6s. net.

THESE charming reminiscences of an Irish mid-Victorian home are, we believe, intended in the first instance for children. We are not wholly sure in what degree they will appeal to youthful minds, which are not always attracted by what is obviously a chronicle of sober fact. But we can guarantee that the book will give pleasure to readers of a more mature type, especially such as are familiar with the environment in which the action takes place.

Mrs. Blundell is ideally equipped for her undertaking in that she possesses that accuracy of memory which Stevenson believed to be peculiar to himself, and which he was at any rate justified in regarding as extremely rare. This is not restricted to subjective impressions. External circumstances also are present to her mind in a manner not very usual with Irish people who have been long away from their native country. She knows the vernacular pronunciation of *enfire*, and that hideous drawl on the "a" vowel

sound which Ireland shares with New England. She recalls the fashion of those "Patrick's crosses" which the reviewer too has helped to make—and would fain have worn, had not a stringent etiquette forbidden it to holders of the Protestant persuasion.

Truthful as are the author's recollections, they have nothing about them of the commonplace. A household numbering among its members two future novelists and at least one poet would be some way out of the ordinary run in any country or period. The passion for literature manifested by these young ladies from their earliest years is a natural consequence of their exceptional mental endowment. But their mother's wise liberality in gratifying it by free indulgence in Dickens and Scott and many an author of inferior merit would have been, we think, a little rarer in Ireland even than here. To descend from high thinking to plain living, we do not fancy that a daily pudding, even "spotted dog" or "bread and butter," formed part of the menu in an average Irish household at that date. And though cakes of extreme richness and other delicacies which scarcely bear thinking of in war-time were occasionally produced in such households, we fear that in most cases the children were by no means encouraged, like Mrs. Blundell and her sisters, to indemnify themselves for habitual restriction by one crowded hour of glorious feasting. But perhaps the most remarkable incident of their education, unique, we should imagine, for girls of their class and nationality, was their being sent to school at a convent in their own country. As might have been foreseen, they developed a vigorous brogue, the Irish parent's standing terror, and were promptly removed.

Their home was deep in the country. It follows, therefore, as a matter of course, that brief visits to Dublin, though overshadowed by the assiduities of a dentist, ranked among the outstanding events of life. They presented in the main two principal joys, the sweet-shop and the lending library. Other children in like case have followed the same twin stars. We are, however, prepared to maintain that Webb's supply of fiction was more liberal than Morrow's, and that Fitz-Patrick's "Pure Confectionery" made but a sorry

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It is a signal testimony to the writer's veracity that, in utter defiance of the Wild Irish Girl convention, she describes herself as a timid horsewoman. This is, indeed, neither unusual nor unnatural in a society where little trouble is taken to smooth the path for such as are not born equestrians. It is more curious that she should have been afraid of cattle, a rare weakness with country-bred people, who can frequently be distinguished by its absence from those of urban or suburban origin. It is also surely uncommon for even the most nervous children to dread a strange bedroom when it is shared by two.

The children's favourite haunts, "Bluebell Wood," "Paradise," "Long Island," "Ivy Home," are described with great charm, as are the expeditions to more distant parts of the family property which took place on "Red-Letter Days." With these pursuits out of doors and the absorbing labour of literary composition within (these budding novelists discovered their vocation at eight years old and under) life, though somewhat isolated, was full and interesting enough. A more spacious existence was opened before long by the migration of the family to Brussels with which this volume closes.

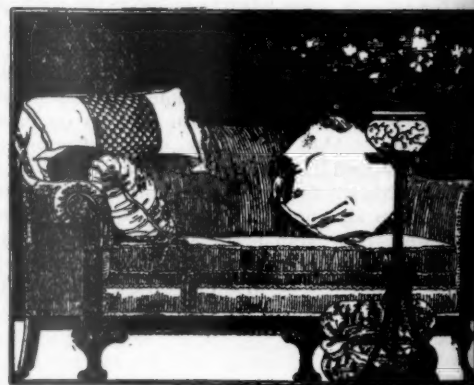
The Ireland here presented to us has little in common with the Ireland which is prominent in our thoughts to-day. We may add that the picture, despite its truthfulness, is true only to a very limited aspect of Irish life even fifty or sixty years ago, the darker side being kept wholly out of view. But none the less, or rather all the more, we have found the record a grateful source of rest and refreshment.

THE SYNTHETIZER.

Essays in Scientific Synthesis. By Eugenio Rignano. George Allen & Unwin. 7s. 6d. net.

THIS book is made up of seven essays, first published in half-a-dozen foreign periodicals, then republished at Paris in one volume, and now translated by Mr. J. M. Greenstreet with some revision by the author. The rendering, well worth doing, did not seem to us at first to be well done; but after studying some of the author's immeasurable sentences in the original tongues, we feel inclined to condole with the translator rather than to censure him. At any rate, the book might have been more easy reading. The book, one calls it; but what is the common aim by virtue of which these articles form a book? To this two answers are given. The author, in his preface to this English edition, says that their object is to demonstrate the value of the theorist, in plain English, the "looker-on," who, comprehending in a single view all the sciences, sees more of the game than the specialist immersed in one. The other answer, kindly provided by the publishers on the paper cover, is to the effect that ideas taken from one or other science are here applied to a different science or sciences with fruitful results. There is truth in both statements, but the former is the more adequate. Let us consider it.

The author applies his theorising to certain problems in biology, psychology, anthropology, and sociology. In each case his method is the same: essentially the Hegelian separation of the problem into its contradictory Thesis and Antithesis, and its solution by a compromising Synthesis. To exemplify, life, say some, is only a series of physico-chemical phenomena; on the contrary, say others, the phenomena are controlled by a soul, an entelechy, a vital something. May not life, says our compromiser, be due to some special form of energy hitherto unrecognised, but not (if we understand him rightly) confined to living creatures? Religion, again, is regarded by one school as of animistic origin—the apotheosis of a dream, by another school as due to social needs—conglomeration of taboos. Any synthetist worthy of the name will see then that religion must spring from a phenomenon that is both psychic and social; and this phenomenon Dr. Rignano finds in the act of propitiation. Once more, is the course of social



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history an "inevitable march," due, as Marx maintained, solely to "the economic process"? Or is it influenced by human aspirations and laws? It is both economic and legal, replies our conciliating author. Economic factors start the stream of progress, but the bounds of law guide its course. The solution lies in a synthesis of the material and the ideal: the key of the socialistic problem is found in the law of property. So much will serve to illustrate the synthetic method.

Now for the metathesis, as we may term the cross-fertilisation of the sciences by their generative ideas. Apart from a few obvious but not particularly helpful analogies, we find the main idea thus utilised to be that of memory—an idea familiar enough to readers of the late Samuel Butler. Memory, for the plain man, is nothing if not conscious. Consciousness, indeed, is a form of memory. It follows the act or state, if only by a moment, and consists in a bringing together of past and present psychic states. But as there are varying degrees of consciousness, according to the number and strength of the past impressions that are called up, so also are there degrees of consciousness in memory. The actor performs his part while his thoughts are elsewhere; past impressions persist and are related to present action, but the psychic state remains unaffected. The pianist playing a composition can engage in conversation; between this stereotyped memory and the reflex actions performed by any unconscious animal, no line can be drawn. Habits arise from repetition, painfully remembered, it may be, at first; but the conscious effort fades until the habit becomes, as we say, "second nature." Inversely, "nature," adds Dr. Rignano, is nothing but "first habit." He means: all the natural desires and processes of the body have arisen as incorporated habits.

Memory in this general sense may be traced upwards into human societies, or downwards into the physiology of the organs and of the humbler creatures. To take the highest first, Dr. Rignano finds the social value of religion to reside largely in its commemorative functions: the calendar, the duties of each season in its turn, the fixation of boundaries, the solemnization of contracts. Or, again, the power of religion to impress habits of thought is enforced by the use of ritual, which is a mechanical memorising. Returning to a lower plane, we must easily recognise the work of biological memory in the phenomenon of recapitulation—the fact that many creatures in growing from the egg or seed to the adult pass through stages similar to those passed in the history of the race. In this process, says Dr. Rignano, internal causes reproduce structures and physiological states determined directly by the external world in a more or less distant past. Any biologist, in so far as he accepts this statement, will agree that it also applies to all adaptations of organs and specializations of tissues. There is memory of what was needed, and the new creature grows in accordance therewith. This, again, may be extended to the hourly reproduction of the bodily tissues by the assimilation of food, which is a perpetual return to the level previously found most beneficial. As to the precise mechanism of this physiological memory, Dr. Rignano has an elaborate hypothesis which this is neither the time nor the place to criticise. The broad facts are well known, and the general interpretation throws a suggestive light on the connection between them. It leads further—into the realm of psychology; for, just as the body tends to return always to the physiological state which has been found to suit it best, so do the affective tendencies or desires of the body display the same bent towards the optimum. Thus, in its simplest acts, in its vague outstretchings to light, to food, or to the solid ground of earth in those beginnings of a soul-life which are seen in the flock habit and in the care of the brood; in these, and even in higher manifestations, the living organism seems attracted of conscious purpose to a definite goal. Attracted, it seems; but in truth it is impelled by the memory of its past history. Without this memory there could be no plan of creation; there could, indeed, be no life. And so, witting or unwitting, hidden or made plain, the supreme synthetizer is memory.



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But when Dr. Rignano adds that "this mnemonic property . . . makes the world of life a world apart," we feel tempted as detached theorists (*anglice*, outsiders) to ask if this is really so. Hering in 1870 described memory as "a general function of organized matter"; may we not trace it also in the unorganized? Take a bar of iron, bend it, and restraighen it. It is no longer the same, but will be bent more readily in the same direction as before. Magnetise it, and it remains attracted to the poles. Surely this evocation of a past physical impression has as good a claim to be called memory as have many of the instances from plants or protozoa. But Earth itself has a memory. The shock of the earthquake passes along the lines of older shocks; the folds of mountain-building are repeated along flexures begun in a remoter past. So true is it, as the Poet Laureate has just reminded us, that "by memory the world exists: without it, if it could exist without it, it would be an inconceivable and meaningless chaos."

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

'A Commentary to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason,' by Norman Kemp Smith. (Macmillan, 25s. net.) We are glad to welcome the issue of this long-expected book, even in the midst of the distractions of the times. An adequate discussion of the problems it raises, and in many cases solves for the first time, would make a demand on our space larger than circumstances permit, so that we must limit ourselves at present to pointing out what are the principal aims set before him by our author. The obscurities of Kant are mainly due not to defects of exposition, but to the composite nature of the text. Though the book was put together in a few months, it was the result of many years' work, during which Kant's views underwent marked development and sometimes changed. In spite of this, he seems to have been unwilling to sacrifice anything he had once written out, and, accordingly, passages are introduced which are incompatible with previous dicta. A large part of Professor Smith's Commentary is devoted to this subject, but he subordinates textual questions to a systematic discussion of the central problems of the Critique. An Introduction of some sixty pages gives a first-rate account of Kant's relations to his predecessors, and of

his general position. The Commentary follows the lines of the Critique, and a simple device allows the advanced student to turn at once to the author's discussion of Kant's views. A translation of the 'Critique of Pure Reason' is in preparation, and will be welcomed by students.

'Wales in the Seventeenth Century,' by the Rev. J. C. Macriss (Bangor, Jarvis & Foster, 10s. 6d. net), may be described as a bio-bibliographical catalogue of Welsh worthies—men of letters or of action—of a very obscure period of the social history of Wales, classified as Historians, Religious and Moral Writers, Poets writing either in Welsh or English, Grammarians, and others. The work is a very valuable collection of the materials of Welsh literary history; what it really lacks is the connecting thread showing the development of national inspiration during the period. We are sure that no one is better qualified than the author for giving us a picture of the social, political, and religious atmosphere of the Principality which would weld his materials into an harmonious whole. In the meantime he has given us a work of great value to students and bibliographers, with but one fault for non-Welsh-speaking readers, the large number of extracts left untranslated. In this it resembles his invaluable 'Manual of Welsh Literature,' published in 1909.

'Last Lectures by Wilfrid Ward,' with an introductory study by Mrs. Wilfrid Ward (Longmans, 12s. 6d. net), contains the Lowell Lectures of 1914 on 'The Genius of Cardinal Newman,' three lectures on 'the methods of depicting character in fiction and biography' given at the Royal Institution, and some essays. It need not be said that Mr. Ward's treatment of Newman as a writer and teacher is full of interest to students of that great divine, but speaking for ourselves we found the second series of lectures more to our mind. They reveal the critical mind at work on construction, and are a ripe and well-considered piece of work.

'The Problem of the Fourth Gospel,' by H. Latimer Jackson (Cambridge University Press, 6s. net) embodies such a severe revision of the author's 'The Fourth Gospel and some recent German Criticism,' as to be a new book. It is almost mediæval in its completeness of treatment: it gives all the varying suggestions as to the date of the Gospel, its authorship, the amount of trust to be placed in its statements of fact, examining them shortly, and goes into the literary structure of the Gospel. Dr. Jackson puts its date between 90 and 120 A.D., and rejects the possibility of Apostolic authorship. We have travelled far since the days of Westcott, but since the study of the past has become a science, the Christian documents must be presumed capable of undergoing such reverent examination as is here given.

'Paris through an Attic,' by A. Herbage Edwards (Dent, 6s. net) is far and away the best account of the life of a serious and impecunious student in Paris fifteen years ago that we have ever



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met. It is a book to arouse in everyone who has had such an experience the question: Why didn't I write that? Dr. and Mrs. Edwards got married and set out for two years' student life in Paris with £10 for furniture, a present from Cousin Harriet instead of a wardrobe, and £70 a year to live on for the two. In no other place but Paris could the enterprise have had the smallest chance of being successful, and we fear that it will never be possible again even there, but Paris has always been the "mother of wisdom, receiving all that come out of every country in the world, and helping them in all that they need, and as a servant of soothness showing herself generous to wise men and unwise." Mrs. Edwards's book is, rightly considered, first the praise of Paris, and next the praise of the kindly and thrifty French people, learned and unlearned alike, and lastly the story of the great adventure of her life. Half of the book is devoted to the economics of their daily existence, the other gives a lively picture of the work and play of the poor student and of his teachers and professors. The book ends happily with Richard's assurance of his thesis (which we have read, be it said), in spite of the base conduct of the professor with the hobby. There is in this book more French student life than, and, incidentally, as much bad French as, in half-a-dozen English and American novels of Paris.

LATEST PUBLICATIONS.

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THE CITY.

It is almost impossible to keep pace with the number of industrial companies that are adopting the popular measure of capitalising reserves and issuing them in the form of bonus shares. On the whole, no fault can be found with this procedure provided that it is not overdone, especially as it has the effect of emphasising the fact that a reserve fund built up out

of profits in the past or by the accumulation of premiums paid by shareholders for shares issued at prices well above their nominal value, does represent capital. The committee on bank amalgamations recently suggested that the reduction of banking capital which frequently occurs in the course of amalgamations was undesirable, but the report did not take into account the large amount of capital represented by the acknowledged and hidden reserves held by the banks. It might be well for bank directors to consider the desirability of capitalising a portion of these items if a body of business men such as were represented upon that committee are impressed by totals of nominal, as distinct from working, capital.

It is satisfactory to find that the scheme for amalgamation of British Dyes, Ltd., and Levinsteins, Ltd., has now reached a stage which admits of no doubt that it will be carried through. If the British dye industry is to succeed in overcoming German competition after the war the first essential is that competition between the two largest British manufacturers must be eliminated. Were they to be fighting each other the Germans would probably cut in and win the spoils. The elimination of home competition however, necessitates measures to prevent undue advantage being taken of consumers and it is therefore provided that the combined company shall make an equitable distribution of its products at reasonable prices to consumers, any dispute on these points to be settled by the Board of Trade. The capital of the new company has not been determined. It depends upon the actuarial valuation of the substantial assets of both companies, the consideration for which will be one half in 7 per cent. non-cumulative preference shares and half in 8 per cent. preferred shares, while goodwill and current contracts will be taken over in exchange for deferred shares in the ratio of 55 per cent. to British Dyes and 45 per cent. to Levinsteins. It would perhaps have been better if goodwill had been paid for in some extinguishable security instead of becoming a permanent part of the capital and the scheme has a further objection in that it capitalises the assets at a war-time valuation. But assuming—as it is surely safe to do—that Germany is for ever shut out of the British dyeing industry, the possibilities for expansion of trade are so substantial that even a war-time valuation of the assets is not likely to prove too high when trade has been established on a peace basis.

The manufacture of magnetos has now become an established British industry, and the report of Lord Burleigh's Committee, which advocates the prohibition of any importation of magnetos from enemy countries after the war, and an ad valorem duty of 33 per cent. on other magnetos, is referred to in our Report of Fellows Magneto Company, Ltd. The Company certainly appears to have made excellent progress since its inception some 18 months ago, and what must be pleasing to the shareholders, the very satisfactory dividend of 9½ per cent. is being paid on the Preferred Shares, and 15 per cent. on the Ordinary Shares, while a substantial sum is devoted to depreciation and to writing down the preliminary expenses.

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WEST AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS.

THE EIGHTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of Elder Dempster & Co., Ltd., was held on June 11th, in London, Sir Owen Philipps, G.C.M.G., M.P. (the chairman), presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said: Whilst our shipping connections extend to many parts of the world, our most important business is the maintenance of steamship services between the United Kingdom and West African ports, and the linking up of these ports with one another. As there are no less than ninety-nine such ports on the West African coast, the majority of which are either open roadsteads or shallow-draft harbours, with few facilities for rapid handling of ships or cargo, special types of vessels are indispensable, and consequently the trade, even in normal times, is one of the most difficult in the world. Under war conditions it was inevitable that some of these ports should suffer inconvenience on account of the universal shortage of shipping tonnage, and that important local trading interests should be affected adversely. On the other hand, owing to the adaptability of West African products for purposes of food and munitions, and to the comparative proximity of the West African coast to these shores, I believe, speaking generally, the oversea trade of West Africa has been less interrupted than that of any other country. At the same time, the war has brought into prominence the uses and value of the produce of these vast tropical and sub-tropical territories, for which there now seems every prospect of a permanent demand in this country. As a striking example of this, it was stated in the House of Commons last week, on behalf of the Government, that this country's capacity for producing margarine (in the manufacture of which large quantities of West African oil-bearing nuts are used) has increased fourfold during the war, and that we are now independent of foreign supplies. Palm kernels, palm oil, and ground nuts are the West African products most in demand by the Ministry of Munitions and the Ministry of Food, and these are all now controlled by the Government, the imports at present being only limited by the amount of tonnage available. The system of control and the institution of priority lists for cargo has involved hardships in some directions, more especially in the case of the Gold Coast, from which cocoa is the principal export. This being considered as non-priority cargo, the position of growers and exporters has been extremely difficult, and the effect upon the industry threatens to be serious. The situation is, however, receiving the careful consideration of the Colonial Office and the Ministry of Food, and I am hopeful that some amelioration will result. From every point of view it is most desirable that the future of the cocoa trade of the Gold Coast colony—which has made such striking progress in recent years—should be safeguarded. The French authorities have adopted a different system of control as regards the produce of the French West African colonies, under which the produce is purchased locally, instead of controlling the sale price in France. This creates anomalies for British merchants and British shipowners, and has for some time prevented British steamers from securing any cargo from the French colonies, though the French steamers take substantial quantities of cargo from British West African ports. I understand, however, that these regulations have been relaxed to some extent, and that permits for the shipment of produce from French West African ports to the United Kingdom have been granted. Manganese ore, which was shipped from the Gold Coast for the first time in 1916, came forward in much increased quantities during 1917. The ore is reported to be of good quality. Under the priority system the importation of timber into this country was prohibited until lately, but the demand has now become so great that the Government have made contracts for supplies of timber from West Africa, and special arrangements are being made for its conveyance.

FLEET AND SERVICES.

All our steamers have been continuously employed throughout the year under review. The number engaged in our regular

commercial services has been considerably reduced owing to war losses and to the increased demands on tonnage for direct national purposes. Our direct service between New York and West Africa was also well maintained during 1917. By this means supplies of essential commodities unprocureable in West Africa, and that cannot be spared from this country, have reached the European population on the coast. On the return voyage these vessels have afforded an outlet for the shipment of cocoa from the Gold Coast. I fear, however, that some modification in this service may be inevitable. Whilst under the pressure of circumstances, we have been obliged entirely to suspend the Canada-Cape service, the Ministry of Shipping are now endeavouring to release some of our tonnage to meet the position. Our Galveston and New Orleans services have been successfully conducted, but all the freight room is requisitioned by the Government. This established line—like the other Gulf established lines—is now operated in conjunction with the North Atlantic Committee. In consequence of the steamship services between Allied countries and the Canary Islands having been discontinued, the company's operations at Tenerife and Grand Canary have necessarily had to be greatly curtailed. As you know, Elder Dempster & Co., Limited, own a considerable amount of property, plant, etc., in these islands, where in peace times we carried on extensive shipping, coaling, and general business. I am, however, pleased to say that during the trying days we are now passing through our varied interests in the islands are being carefully husbanded and watched over, with the object of having everything in readiness so as to be in a position to resume operations as soon as circumstances will allow. In April, 1917, the whole of our fleet, other than the vessels already requisitioned by the Admiralty for war purposes, came under the Liner Requisition Scheme of the Ministry of Shipping, and has since been run by us on Government account. In addition to our own fleet, we have been entrusted from time to time with the management of a number of steamers on behalf of the Government. The Ministry of Shipping have agreed to the principle—on which we are now working—of allotting space on the basis of stocks available for shipment. The increase in the number of shippers has been particularly marked in connection with the export of cocoa to New York, and, in view of the importance of this industry to the Gold Coast Colony, and the restricted steamer space, I think it may be advisable to appoint a committee representative of all interests to allocate the space during the war. The Ministry of Shipping have adopted the general rule that freights and passages should be adjusted so as to ensure that no trade is carried on at a loss, and acting on their instructions the West African cargo rates and passenger fares have been increased since our vessels were requisitioned by the Government.

WEST AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS.

Plans are under consideration by the Nigerian Government for the development of the Apapa side of the Lagos Lagoon. The scheme is, I believe, projected on a scale worthy of a port which is intended to be the premier port of Nigeria. In July, 1917, the Public Trustee offered for sale by auction the enemy-owned shares of the Pacific Phosphate Company, Ltd., when a large holding was acquired by us. The deposits of phosphate in certain of the Pacific islands over which that company own concessions are probably unequalled, both as regards quality and extent, by any other known sources of supply. The universal demand for phosphate for the manufacture of fertilisers is bound to be very great after the war. The requirements for agricultural purposes in this country will necessitate vastly-increased supplies of fertilisers, and, therefore, as a matter of Imperial policy, it is to be hoped that jurisdiction over these islands may not be allowed to pass out of the hands of the Imperial Parliament.

Any attempt under existing conditions to forecast the future as regard shipping in general or the West African trade in particular would be futile. All we can do at present is to concentrate upon the prosecution of the war with the utmost vigour, and to lay our plans for the future with a view to providing adequately both for the maintenance and expansion of the shipping trades which this old-established company has done so much to create and develop. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts and the payment of a final dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 6 per cent., making a total of 10 per cent. for the year, and a dividend to the holders of the management shares in accordance with the articles of association, both free of income tax.

Mr. J. Craig seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

An amount of £10,000 was allocated out of the profits for the year to the Elder Dempster Superannuation Fund Association, and Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co. were re-appointed auditors.

THE FELLOWS MAGNETO CO.

RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF A BRITISH INDUSTRY.

THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Fellows Magneto Co., Ltd., was held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on Wednesday, the 12th inst., at 2.30 p.m. Mr. V. L. Fellows (chairman of the company) presided.

After the usual preliminaries the Chairman said: The importance of the magneto industry to this country may be gauged from the report of Lord Balfour of Burleigh's Committee recommending an ample measure of protection in the future for British manufacturers of magnetos. To further encourage the investment of capital in this key industry an award was also made by the official referees in February, entitling us, in common with others, to an increased standard rate of profit under the Excess Profit Tax during the continuance of the war. These recommendations are unquestionably of great interest to us, and must have an important bearing on the present and future prospects of our company.

The past year has been one of unusual difficulty, due to wartime delays, the shortage of skilled labour, and the general disorganisation of industry. The accounts now presented to you cover a period of eighteen months, but the company has only had the benefit of the preferred capital since the beginning of 1917. The magneto output was commenced in April, 1917, it having been found necessary to greatly extend our present factory, which was purchased by us in 1916, together with 2½ acres of freehold land. In view of the rapid development of our business, negotiations are now in progress with the authorities to enable us to again double our present factory accommodation. Meantime, a further 1½ acre of land has been purchased, which will give us 4 acres in all for our premises.

The magnetos we are now manufacturing are supplied to the aeroplane services. This type is of a much higher standard of quality than any pre-war Bosch design, and is built to the limits of extreme accuracy required by the Government. A considerably increased contract is now being placed by the Government with our company.

As regards the balance-sheet, Government loans amounted to £17,450, against which there is £12,279, due to us mostly for deliveries to the Government. A total sum of £4,360 has been written off—a substantial sum for a company of our moderate capital to set aside in its first year out of what is practically equivalent to nine months' working.

9½ PER CENT. AND 15 PER CENT. DIVIDENDS FOR THE FIRST YEAR.

Your directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of 9½ per cent. on the preferred shares, making 9½ per cent. to December 31st, 1917, and a dividend of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £1,181. Your directors, although holding the greater proportion of the ordinary capital, considered it advisable to write down in a substantial manner the preliminary expenses and the plant and machinery, rather than to distribute a higher dividend in this the first year of the company's working.

In this connection it may be noted that an increase in the preferred dividend of ½ per cent. means an increase of 5 per cent. in the dividends on the ordinary share capital.

PROPOSED NEW ISSUE OF CAPITAL.

The paid-up capital of the company is £66,533. This, compared with the present size of the company's undertakings, is insufficient for our requirements. The proposed new extensions of our factory alone, with the necessary machinery, are estimated to require a further sum of £40,000, to which has to be added the additional working capital and the moneys required for the repayment of our Government loans. The small balance of our present capital now available for issue has been offered to our shareholders and has been applied for, but we shall also welcome applications from members of the public who may wish to take an interest in the company by the purchase of a few of the ordinary shares which may be available. Provision will also be made to reserve for such applicants a participation in our forthcoming issue. All inquiries in connection with these matters should be

addressed to our West-End offices, 21, St. James' Street, London, S.W.1.

We have received in the past a large measure of financial support from the Government, but the time has now arrived in which we should carry on by our own efforts, as far as possible, the rapidly increasing business we have built up.

The report and accounts having been approved and adopted, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

NOBEL'S EXPLOSIVE'S COMPANY, LIMITED,

THE FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held at Merchants' House, Glasgow, on June 12th, Colonel Sir Ralph W. Ansthruther, Bart., presiding.

Mr. M. B. Milne, secretary, having read the notice convening the meeting, the accounts were laid upon the table, and, after calling upon him to read the auditors' report,

The Chairman said:—We have not yet been able to effect a settlement with the Authorities in regard to our liability for Munitions' Levy and Excess Profits Duty for the years 1916 and 1917, the main points at issue being the amount of output allowance under the Munitions Act and the post-war valuation of our war capital expenditure. That settlement does not seem much nearer. Your directors therefore place before you for confirmation a balance-sheet made up to 31st December, 1917, and a profit and loss account for the two years ending at that date. In making up these accounts, specific sums have been set aside which, in the opinion of the board, will adequately cover all liability for war taxes, income tax, etc., up to the end of 1917.

Dealing with the figures in the balance-sheet, I would first refer to the item of land, buildings, plant, etc. This gives the written down value of all your factories, which is considerably less than their actual worth, in consequence of the liberal depreciation policy which has been wisely adopted for so many years past. Stocks have been valued on our usual conservative basis, but, nevertheless, that asset, as also that of the debtors, stands necessarily at a high figure on account of the increased volume of business transacted, coupled with the enhanced cost of materials, wages, etc. Our investments have been increased by extending our interests in directions not intimately associated with explosives, and, in order to remove any doubt as to the nature of our investments, I might say in passing that, with the exception of £500,000 of War Loan, these are not ordinary Stock Exchange investments, but capital holdings in allied or subsidiary companies. The cash position, as you will see, at the date of the accounts was very good. The creditor side of the balance-sheet, together with the conservative method of valuing assets, reflects the strength of your company in reserve capital, and it will be appreciated that the issued capital of about £2,800,000 by no means represents the profit-earning capital of your undertaking. When the employment of our reserves is taken into account, I consider that the ratio of profit is moderate. In point of fact, the prices for propellant powders are lower than pre-war times; that this is possible in face of high wages and more costly materials is due entirely to our improved methods and greatly increased production.

I now beg to move: "That the report of the directors and the accounts for the two years ended the 31st December, 1917, be adopted; that the dividends at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares paid on the 1st August, 1917, and 1st February, 1918, and the interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares paid on the 1st December, 1917, be confirmed; that on the paid-up ordinary capital of the company a further dividend at the rate of 15 per cent., free of income tax, be declared, payable on and after the 13th June, 1918; that £400,000 be carried to general reserve fund; that £100,000 be carried to special reserve funds, and that the balance of £84,881 14s. 7d. be carried forward to the next account."

Mr. M. Pearce Campbell seconded the motion.

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SIEMENS BROTHERS & CO.

THE ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of Siemens Brothers & Co., Limited, was held on June 11th at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Mr. G. Mure Ritchie, the chairman, presided, and said that during the past year the company had adhered to its past policy, and the volume of the business done exceeded that of 1916 by about one-third. The expansion in output occurred principally in insulated wires and cables, ebonite, and batteries. In regard to the development of automatic telephony, which the company foresaw before the war, the advantages of eliminating the human exchange operator had been demonstrated in practice, and all technical difficulties surmounted, and they were equipped to provide large exchanges for public service, and also private exchanges of 25 to 500 lines. Notwithstanding the demands of war work, they had completed a semi-automatic exchange of 1,000 lines at Port Adelaide for the Commonwealth of Australia, and a full automatic exchange of 1,300 lines at Grimsby for the G.P.O., while good progress had been made with a full automatic exchange of 950 lines for Stockport, also for the G.P.O.

The year's profit of £203,524 showed a substantial increase over that of 1916, due to the very much larger volume of business done. An interim dividend of 10 per cent., free of income tax, had been paid, but no further distribution for the year 1917 could be considered until the Government claim for excess profits duty had been adjusted. The balance sheet showed £764,524 for materials, manufactured goods, and work in hand. This was more than double the pre-war amount of £377,386, the increase being due entirely to the growth of expenditure on orders in hand, which at December 31st exceeded in value £1,500,000.

An important asset was the holding of the entire issued capital of Siemens Bros. Dynamo Works, Ltd.—namely, £200,000 in shares and £200,000 in Debentures. At the outbreak of war the share capital of Siemens Bros. and Co., Ltd., was £600,000, with £150,000 of 4 per cent. Debentures, nearly all the shares and about one-third of the Debentures being held by Germans. Moreover, the German shareholders had supplied funds to meet the capital requirements of the growing businesses of the two companies.

When war began, the entire German interest in the shares, and the additional capital referred to was vested in the Public Trustee, who took steps to realise it by sale to a British buyer, and on December 14th, 1917, the share capital of Siemens Brothers & Co. was purchased by Messrs. C. B. Crisp & Co. The contract provided for the issue to the Public Trustee by the company of £1,330,000 of 4½ per cent. debentures to provide for the repayment of capital (other than share capital), and the participation in the 4 per cent. Debentures employed in the business by the former German owners; and the Public Trustee had a right after the conclusion of peace to call for the redemption of these Debentures on one year's notice. Subject to such arrangement, they were redeemable by annual drawings calculated to extinguish the whole in twenty-five years from the date of issue. Following this arrangement with the Public Trustee, the board was reconstituted, and now consisted of Mr. G. Mure Ritchie (chairman), Sir William Bull, M.P., Sir Clifford Cory, M.P., Lord Queenborough, Mr. H. J. Thomas, and Mr. G. Chauvin (managing director).

The new board, however, recognised the advisability of changing the capital arrangements so as to establish equilibrium between share capital and Debenture debt, and at an early date the shareholders might be asked to approve a scheme for increasing the share capital to £1,500,000 (or even more) in £1 shares, of which a substantial portion would remain in reserve for future developments; but as to £400,000, if issued for cash, the proceeds would be available for the retirement of a corresponding amount of Debentures. If the matter were carried through on the lines thus indicated, the joint concerns—Siemens Bros. & Co. and Siemens Dynamo Works—would be represented by an issued share capital of £1,000,000, with £150,000 of 4 per cent. Debentures and about £1,000,000 of 4½ per cent. Debentures, the latter being held by the Public Trustee.

Dealing with Siemens Brothers Dynamo Works, Ltd., entirely owned by Siemens Brothers and Co., the chairman said that the turnover in 1917 increased in the United Kingdom and decreased overseas, as compared with 1916. The value of unexecuted orders on December 31st was £1,145,000. Since the entry of the new directors into office, negotiations had been inaugurated with other companies doing similar industrial business, with the object of bringing such manufacturers together for the reduction of unnecessary competition and the avoidance of duplicating machinery, workshops, and offices. Co-operation would make for the more continuous running of plants with the attendant advantages of cheaper production, increased efficiency, and improved quality of the work done, avoiding unnecessary expense in storage, selling organisations and reducing the duplication of stocks to a minimum.

He moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and the motion was unanimously carried.

PHENIX ASSURANCE COMPANY (LIMITED)

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON'S SURVEY OF INSURANCE OPERATIONS.

THE COMPANY'S "SOLID POSITION AND FAVOURABLE PROSPECTS."

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders of this company was held on June 12th at Phoenix House, King William Street, the Right Hon. Lord George Hamilton, P.C., G.S.C.I. (the chairman) presiding.

The General Manager (Sir Gerald H. Ryan) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in the course of his address, said: From the results of insurance companies as a whole I draw the conclusion that this important branch of commercial affairs has well maintained its position under the trying conditions brought about by the war. As a whole, the fire companies, ourselves in the number, have done fairly as well as usual. Marine companies have done remarkably well, and the life offices have shown as a class great vitality, though war conditions have temporarily influenced their profits. The accident branches, of which we are at present not a very imposing unit, have also prospered. The main features of the fire business in the past year are lower loss ratio, a diminished expenditure, and an enhanced profit. Our premiums have increased by £177,448, our loss ratio has declined from 48.9 to 47.6 per cent., our expenses from 39 to 38 per cent. of the premiums, and our profit has grown from £135,000 to £176,000. In the marine field a phenomenal growth is shown in the premium income of the chief companies. Our own revenue from this source has risen from £1,300,000 to £2,400,000. The companies as a whole have done exceptionally well, and our own profit of £185,000 is one of the best results. But after the war the business of many companies will shrink by at least one-half, and competition for what remains will be carried on with great intensity by an unnecessary large number of competitors. On life assurance account our new business has shown excellent results, and it is above the total of the preceding year. This is surprising when we bear in mind the enormous number of men within the usual insurable ages withdrawn from civil life for patriotic duty. Death claims arising from the war, which have fallen most heavily upon young lives, have practically wiped out the profit from favourable mortality. Since the outbreak of war the company has paid war claims amounting to £265,000 in respect of 287 policy holders killed. Last year the amount paid was £70,530, being about £20,000 less than in 1916. The value of their assets has had a continuous fall, and the pressure of increased income tax has been seriously felt. The fall in the value of securities is the common lot. But I have been greatly impressed by the universal testimony to the undue hardship which life offices have to bear in regard to the method by which they are assessed for income tax. The tax is levied on the interest received on their funds, and this is not, in our judgment, an equitable basis, as we contend the proper measure of our liability should be our profits instead of interest. In profit and loss account our free interest amounted to £161,000, and almost met the charges for dividend and debenture interest (£167,000) without any draft upon our trading profits. Our trading profits, £379,000 reached the highest sum we have ever attained, but practically the whole was absorbed by taxes and depreciation, so that we have to forego those considerable additions to reserve which have been customary. We have contributed £230,000 out of profits to the financial support of the Government in the prosecution of the war. This sum is increased by the income tax paid upon our interest receipts to £400,000. This is a very large sum for a company like the Phoenix to provide in a single year. We have again had to provide a substantial amount to cover the fall in the value of securities. The major portion of the £140,000 written off arises upon bonds in the United States, where prices are lower in consequence of the large issues of war loan securities in that country. In view of this heavy depreciation the United States Government have authorised for the purpose of returns by insurance companies the adoption of values considerably in excess of current market prices. We have, however, considered it prudent to adopt the actual market quotations for the purpose of our balance-sheet. Reverting, finally, to the position of our own company, whether we look back or look forward, the conclusion we arrive at is equally satisfactory. In the past ten years our assets have increased from £7,360,767 to £19,041,965, our total income from £2,206,156 to £5,641,332, and our profits from £267,556 to £379,411. Few companies can show a like progress in the same short space of time. I have undoubted confidence in the continued prosperity and progress of our company. The board recommend a dividend of 9s. per share in respect of 1917, which compares with 8s. per share paid in each of the last five years. Of the increase of 1s. per share 6d. was included in the further interim dividend of 5s. which was paid on the 1st May last, and it is proposed that the remaining 6d. should be paid next November, along with any interim dividend then declared.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

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